



## STRANGE TRADES AND PROFESSIONS.

By STANLEY CATCHPOL

### VII.—PLACE FINDERS.

Man is not one whit worse than woman when it is a case of love; of the two, woman, perhaps, is the more sensible. She possesses the tact to conceal what she feels; man, possibly feeling more independent, does not care a rap who knows that he is desperately smitten with Miss Somebody. Edgar Mitchel was no exception to the rule. Like the rest of those who belong to the masculine gender, when young he fell in love. The girl to whom he became attached possessed three noble qualities—beauty, amiability, and virtue. In social position she was his equal. He was a clerk in a solicitor's office, drawing a screw of seventy-five pounds a year; she was a seamstress, earning fourteen shillings a week. So long as they remained bachelor and spinster, and resided each under the parental roof, they could have jugged along very comfortably, but a longing took possession of both that they would like to have a home of their own.

Edgar had a feeling that when married he should like to have his wife at home; the idea that she should go to work afterwards was scouted. As his salary was very small, he thought he would try his employer to obtain rise. He tried, and, being refused, a damper was thrown over him at once, but only for a time. He resolved to look out for a better berth. Every day he scanned the papers, and at last saw something, wrote a letter in his best style, stating qualifications, &c., and, of course, received no answer.

Imagine his feelings on the following Saturday afternoon when his employer sent for him. He was to go into the inner office, a thing that had never occurred before. Ere he could utter a word, his master, pushing a small pile of cash towards him, said, "Mr. Mitchel, your services are required no longer. You'll find there a month's money in lieu of notice." Edgar was dumb; his tongue cleaved to the roof of his mouth; he could not utter a word. Time was not given him to recover; the senior clerk was ordered to show Mr. Mitchel out. He spent the whole of Sunday in composing a letter seeking explanation; this note was returned without a word of comment.

And from that day to this Edgar Mitchel has never been able to ascertain why he was discharged. Should his eyes and others also see this sketch, that which has ever remained a mystery—why and wherefore they were discharged from their situations without notice and no reason given—will no longer be one.

They didn't know the "Place Finder" had been at work—a very devil in cunning. Mrs. Cobbs was a widow, with five little children, the eldest eight, the youngest born three months after her husband's death. The twenty pounds received from the Hearts of Oak Society had put the father of her children under the sod, placed a bit of mourning upon her and the three eldest youngsters, and by strict economy carried her through her confinement, previous to which she had been negotiating with a former employer respecting a berth as forewoman in a shirt and collar warehouse, and it had been arranged she was to return, health permitting, on a certain date.

Great sobs convulsed her frame on the morning—the first morning since she had been a wife—that she had to leave her home to go Cityward. She was now to be the bread-winner. Hers must be the brain to think, hers the hands to work, hers the head to bow to a master's rebuke, no matter whether she be right or wrong; her shoulders were to bear the burden of clothing, feeding, and lodging five fatherless children beside herself.

No wonder large great drops fell upon the cheek of the six weeks old boy—the boy the father had even longed for, the other children being girls, the boy who would never know a father's care. Father could never jump him upon his knee; there was no father to sham cross because his boy wanted a pig-a-back and he was a bit tired.

Mrs. Cobbs thought of this, but she was a woman, a warm-hearted loving woman who had loved her husband and he her; she also loved his children, and would toil for them, no matter how hard that toil might be. She stiffered her sons and dried her eyes while she pretended to be kissing the baby. Eight eyes were looking at her, four pairs of lips were pouting to be kissed; each child was saluted in turn, the boy had been the first to be kissed, —the boy, dead father's boy, must also be last.

The terrors herself away and went to business. The first day was the worst. After a time she settled down, keeping her grief to herself, and toiled as only a loving mother can toil. Things went smoothly alone for three years, when one day, glancing through a paper, she saw an advertisement, which offered eight shillings more a week than she was receiving, for a competent middle-aged person as forewoman in a candle factory. Apply by letter only, &c. She did apply, and, contrary to her anticipations, received no answer. But the poor widow received one thing on the Saturday which caused her to swoon directly she came out into the air, and that was her dismissal.

It was useless to ask why and wherefore; she wasn't wanted any more. The widow bore the blow with a brave heart, consoling herself with the old aphorism that if one door closes another is sure to open; and a door did open, but that door broke Mrs. Cobbs' heart, for it was the door of the union, and she only left it for the grave.

If poor Mrs. Cobbs is dead there is some one yet living who is able to drag the shutters down from the "Place Finder's" office and permit the public to look within the interior. And what is the interior? To all appearance a registry office, or employment agency, where those who are without berths come to seek them. A fee, generally averaging from one shilling to five, is paid for registration. The chances are a thousand to one the seeker after work obtains nothing; but should it happen that the persons who seek employment hold in their keeping a sovereign or two, the preference is given to them, and why? Because they have money to pay for the discovery of a situation, should there be nothing on the books, which is very seldom the case. A couple of pounds is sufficient capital to work with, but sometimes a man or woman will offer as much as five pounds for a situation. Having no vacancy, it is the duty of the "Place Finder" to make one. How is this done? The difficulty is easily got over.

Suppose, for instance, a publisher's reader, a manager of some establishment, a chemist's assistant, a butler, or nursery maid, or any other wants a place—it matters little what line they follow—they desire to obtain a superior position to that which they occupy, or, what is the same thing, more lucrative appointments. The first thing they do is to scan the papers day after day, week after week, until something better is obtained.

Edgar Mitchel wanted something better; he read an advertisement. It ran as follows:—"A gentleman desires a secretary to reside permanently in London; one hundred a year to commence, which will be increased to one hundred and fifty; preference given to a solicitor's clerk holding at present an appointment, letter only," &c., &c. To those few words there were over three hundred applicants. Think for a moment; three hundred men in work, seeking after one vacancy, and the whole of that number laid themselves open to share the fate of Edgar.

That advertisement, similar to Mrs. Cobbs', was put in the paper by the "Place Finder." From the number of letters which came to hand, he could quickly ascertain the berth that was most suitable to the person who had given him five pounds. That person was told there was an opening for him at such-and-such an address, but under any circumstances not to state his business with any one except the principal.

No, it is a well-known fact that no employer will permit an employé to remain in his employ until his assistant or servant—use what name one will—can suit himself. No sooner, therefore, does the head of a firm become acquainted that a certain individual is only stopping until he obtains something better, than out he goes. The "Place Finder" knows this; his object is to discover

where there is an appointment held by some one similar to what the person wants who has applied to him. Instead of advertising for a situation, he advertises for a party like the one he has on hand, and as every man likes to earn as much as he can, naturally answers come in by the score. From these one is selected, and the man or woman out of employ is sent. Of course, the master or mistress is astonished, and their answer generally is, "My good man (or woman) I have no vacancy." Then follows a reply, as is only natural: "I understand that one of your clerks, by name, Edgar Mitchel, was leaving; he has applied to Mr. So-and-so for an appointment, and states that he can come at a day's notice," which means that he does not mind losing a month's money if he can gain fifty pounds a year more. This statement, backed up by Edgar Mitchel's letter, so enraged his employer, who believed he was only being made a cat's-paw of, as to lead to his instant dismissal.

And instead of the ardent young lover getting married on fifty shillings a week—for such was the income he vowed he must have to get married upon—after two years' jobbing about, first at one place, then another, he was well content to accept twenty-seven shillings. And the dear little woman, who, if she pricked her finger when they were single was going to die, now has the mortification to see hard corns upon her hands with scrubbing and washing.

Yet he did no more than any man on earth would do, his only object being to increase his income, and that was to be managed only by obtaining another employer. Mrs. Cobbs might have been living to this very day, and watched her boy grow in the likeness of her late husband, but for the natural desire to be "better" herself.

Were they to blame? Is any other man or woman to blame for endeavouring to seek a few shillings more a week to provide better for those dependent upon them? No!

Every man, whether he be a merchant, manufacturer, or artisan, is ever eager to swell his income, but these toilers have to cope with such unscrupulous rascals as the "Place Finders," who, by an unknown, underhand, go-behind-the-back dirty trick, will throw one unfortunate person out of employment to place another in, because there is a chance of gaining a couple of pounds.

Only two cases have been mentioned in this sketch, yet there are scores of instances which could be stated. These two are ample to illustrate the diabolical system which "Place Finders" practice to obtain a living.

Yet, to make it as clear as in a looking-glass, I will cite another instance.

A young doctor had passed all his exams, and taken up his papers, well proving him to be a thoroughly qualified M.D.

The whole of his expenses had been paid by a maiden aunt, his only relative, whose income ceased at her death. She, dying suddenly, threw her nephew upon his own resources. His wealth consisted of a few articles of jewellery, a few suits of clothes, a score or so of books, and about thirty pounds.

With so small a sum it was impossible to dream of working up a practice or purchasing one. He did what hundreds of other young doctors do—sought a berth as assistant to a gentleman who had more patients than time to look after them.

He stated his wants in a medical journal, offering—a very unwise thing to do—ten pounds bonus to any one who could procure for him an appointment. This, which thousands of others have done, caught the eye of the "Place Finder," who wrote at once to the advertiser to call and see him immediately, as he thought he should have an opening for him in about a fortnight. An interview followed, at which the young M.D. stated what remuneration would satisfy him and the kind of berth he most desired.

The following week an advertisement in another paper appeared to the effect that an ancocheur, with a very large practice, desired a gentleman as an assistant. The emoluments offered seemed so tempting that seventy-five applications came in. From these one was selected.

The young doctor also wrote, but, of course, received no answer.

In a couple of days a letter came from the "Place Finder." "Would Mr. Young Doctor call upon him?" The young doctor did call, and was sent to Mr. Somebody at the West-end. This Mr. Somebody kept an assistant, who had seen the "Place Finder's" advertisement. The wily and acute "Place Finder" detected instantly that this assistant was rather on shaky ground, and came to the conclusion that if he sent the young doctor it was a million to one that Mr. Somebody would dismiss his assistant, and take the new-comer, simply because, unexpectedly, a better man had turned up.

As was foreseen, the assistant had to resign, the young doctor, quite innocent of the whole affair, jumped into his shoes, and the "Place Finder" pocketed £10. Allowing for advertisement, postage, and paying something to have letters taken in, say 10s., a net profit of 49s. remains. The profession of a "Place Finder" is not so bad.

### THE CHARGE AGAINST A MARQUIS.

At the Marlborough-street Police Court, the Marquis de Léville, of Albert Mansions, Victoria-street, again appeared to answer the charge of having incited a number of men to commit a riot at the Princess's Theatre on November 30th last. Police-constable Samuel Gill, 334 D, said that on November 30th he was on duty in the pit of the Princess's Theatre. On the rising of the curtain in the second act there was a great disturbance on the right side of the pit. Such expressions as "Take the thing off" were used. After some trouble he discovered that it proceeded from five or six men in a cluster just behind the stalls. Several people asked them to be quiet, but they took no notice until he went over to them.—Cross-examined:

The villain of the piece came on in the second act, but he could not say what sort of scoundrel he was, as he had not had much experience with villains. There were five constables in the pit, but he did not think any of them reported the occurrence.—Police-constable Eames, 402 D, and other constables, gave similar evidence with regard to the gallery, from which three men were ejected.—Mr. Geoghegan: That concludes my case, sir.—Mr. Cock, in opening the case for the defendant, submitted that the action of the marquis was justifiable. He had been scandalously libeled on the stage, and did as everybody was entitled to do when he disapproved of anything that was presented in a place of amusement—he showed his feelings by hissing, the only difference being that he engaged others to aid him in marking his disapprobation. If he and the men he engaged had been guilty of a conspiracy by which one penny of damage had been done to the proprietors of the theatre, they had their remedy in civil proceedings, where the defendant would be able to speak for himself. The evidence, however, he was insufficient to support such a charge as this.—Mr. Brandon Thomas, of Cadogan-terrace, said he was the author of "The Gold Craze." He had met the Marquis de Léville about ten years ago at the Savage Club, but had never known him intimately. In informing the character of the Baron de Fleurville he meant no reflection on the Marquis de Léville, nor had he that gentleman in his mind at the time. In no way was he responsible for the make-up of the actors performing his piece.—Cross-examined:

The external appearance of the baron was copied from a Parisian gentleman unknown to English society, who was related to him by marriage. The name went through several changes. At first he made it Florano, which he believed was the name of a character in "The Paris Sketch Book." From that he altered it to Floresco. Then de Tourville and De Neuville were brought to his notice. After some consideration he settled upon De Fleurville. The case was again adjourned.

How doth a little "Petrolite" Improve the washing hour! It gathers praises all the day.

From all who try its power, How skilfully it does its work, &c.

MARY'S PETROLITE SOAP PEPPE, a spontaneous cleanser, saves rubbing and scrubbing. Sold every day in 4d. Pts. or Four Pts. in Case. 2d.—Works, Aurius-st. N.W.—(Adv.)

### JACK ALLROUND.

I am asked by "B. L. M." for a recipe for making coltsfoot flower wine. Take two quarts of fresh gathered coltsfoot flowers, stone and cut up small one pound of raisins. Now take one gallon of water, two and a half pounds of moist sugar, and the white of one egg well beaten. Boil the water, sugar, and white of egg together for three-quarters of an hour, and then pour it boiling over the coltsfoot and raisins; cover the vessel close, and let the liquor stand for three days, stirring it three times every day. Then add to it one tablespoonful of yeast; keep it well mixed and closely covered until it has worked freely, and then strain it into a cask, in which you have placed half an ounce of bruised ginger and half the rind of one Seville orange. The cask should remain open covering the bung-hole with a tile until it has ceased fermenting. Then put in a gill of brandy, stop up the cask, and let it stand for one year, when it should be bottled, after which it will be fit at least.

"Stonehenge" has brought home the pelt of a bear, with the skin very hard; he wants to soften it for fur. Your hardened skin must first be softened by sponging it on the flesh side with a liquor composed of a quarter of a pound of salt and half a pound of alum to two quarts of boiling water; stir it well up and allow it to cool to tepid, then sponge the skin until it is quite soft. When you have it in that condition it must be what is technically called "shaved"—that is, a certain amount of the thickness of the skin must be reduced by means of a shavehook such as furriers and glovers use or other implements. This can only be done well by practice, but you cannot have a really soft fur if you leave on the full natural thickness of the skin of the more fleshy and thick-skinned animals. When properly "shaved" and partially dried, about the best plan with large skins is to turn the hair inside, and stitch the sides together, taking stitches of about twelve inches apart, then when you have all the skin outside, put about three pounds of lard into a tub, turn in your skin, and set to work with your naked feet to trample it soft. It is easier work than the hand-rubbing; the natural heat of the feet and the trampling will work the lard well in, but do not spare labour. When you have it thoroughly softened take the stitches, lay the skin flat, and shave it a little thinner. When you are satisfied, cleanse the fur with some fine mahogany veneer dust, which when well rubbed in with the hands gathers up all the grease. These instructions should also serve as hints for "Possum," as all skins are treated in the same way, the larger merely requiring more time and labour than the smaller.

my teeth from decaying?" writes "H. J." Perhaps the following, which "Lola Montes" has kindly sent me, will be helpful. At the first appearance of a cavity make a plug of cotton wool, saturate it with either spirits of camphor or tincture of myrrh; either will kill the animalcules, stop decay, and sometimes preserve the tooth for years. The cavity should be freshly plugged every night at least.

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**SCENE AT A PUBLIC MEETING.**  
A Lecturer Challenged to a Duel.

An extraordinary scene took place at a public meeting at the Nelson Hall, Edgware-road, a few evenings ago. Mr. A. H. Alexander, an anti-Romanist lecturer, was announced to lecture on "Papal Perversion of the Truth." The time announced for the lecture was eight o'clock, and by that hour the hall was fairly well filled by an audience of both sexes. At the time appointed the lecturer, accompanied by his chairman and other supporters, appeared on the platform, and met with a marked reception. Mr. Alexander's lecture proved to be of the "Escaped Nun" and "Converted Priest" type, and he had not proceeded far before it became evident that a strong opposition was present. He met with considerable opposition, and as the lecture progressed these interruptions increased in number. In was with some difficulty the lecturer was able to proceed, although the chairman repeatedly appealed for order. The climax was reached when a gentleman left the body of the hall where he had been sitting and took up a position on the platform. He directly contradicted the lecturer's statement and challenged him to a duel, at the same time handing the chairman his card. A scene of great excitement ensued, and for a moment it looked as if the lecturer and his opponent would settle the matter by other means than words. The chairman in vain appealed for order, and the lecturer essayed to proceed with his address, but the uproar was too great. Finally, Mr. Alexander gave up all idea of going on with his speech, and he and his friends departed, leaving the platform in the hands of the enemy. A few words from Mr. Alexander, on the lecturer's alleged misrepresentations brought the proceedings to a close.

### A BURGLAR IN THE WITNESS-BOX.

At the Clerkenwell Police Court, John Dealey, 28, a labourer, and Louise Dealey, aged 21, his wife, refusing their address, were charged on remand, before Mr. Horace Smith, with being concerned with George Taylor, now undergoing fifteen years' penal servitude, in breaking into 11, Alexandri-road, Hornsey, on November 4th, and stealing articles of clothing, money, and jewellery, value £11, the property of Eliza Orpin.—Mr. Angus Lewis, who prosecuted on behalf of the Treasury, said the convict, George Taylor, had been brought to the court, and would give evidence against the male prisoner.—George Taylor deposed: I am acquainted with the prisoner Dealey, and on Nov. 4th we met at my lodgings, 32, Parkfield-street, Islington. We subsequently proceeded to Hornsey, calling in at the Manor House on our way. On arriving at Alexandra-road Dealey knocked at several of the front doors of the houses. He got answers from each except No. 11. I was standing a short distance off, but he beckoned to me and said, "It's all right, Jack." I went to the front door, and tried to unlock it with several keys, but failing to do so I forced it open with a "jimmie." Dealey locked the door inside, and we went upstairs to the first floor back bedroom. I broke open a chest of drawers, and in a small compartment found a purse containing £5 10s., amongst the money being a jubilee 5s. piece. Dealey had plenty of opportunity of taking any jewellery that might have been in the drawer, but I did not see him do so. There was no light in the house, but we lit a piece of candle and took with us. We found a coat and waistcoat in the room, which I took. We went into other rooms, but found nothing worth taking. Everything was too big. I took an overcoat off a peg in the hall and put it on. We left the house together, and proceeded at once back to Parkfield-street, calling in at the Manor House on our way. On reaching my lodgings we divided the proceeds of the burglary, and made arrangements for another "job" that night, he arranging to meet me in an hour's time. I valued the overcoat at 10s., so gave Dealey 5s. We sold the coat and waistcoat and divided the money. On November 17th I was apprehended at my lodgings, tried on three different charges of burglary, found guilty, and sentenced at the Central Criminal Court to fifteen years' penal servitude. I am guilty of two of the charges, but am entirely innocent of the other.—Cross-examined: I quarrelled with the male prisoner about two months before I was arrested. He assaulted me, but we "made it up" again. I did not swear that I would be revenged, if it was twenty years hence. I have not made this statement because I have been promised that if I did my sentence would be reduced. Inspector Peel visited me both at Pentonville and at Wormwood Scrubs.—Detective Ballard, N Division, said on November 4th last he saw Dealey and the convict Taylor in 32, Parkfield-street between two and three in the afternoon, and return to the house about ten o'clock the same evening. The prisoners were suspected, and he and Detective Drew had been directed to keep observation on the house. He had seen them together several times before that.—Detective Drew deposed that when Taylor returned to the house on November 4th he was wearing an overcoat, which was proved to be the one stolen from prosecutrix's premises.—The arrest of the accused having been proved, a lad named Crocker stated that the female prisoner pawned the ring now produced, and identified by the prosecutrix, at his shop on December 23rd last.—The defendants were sent for trial at the Central Criminal Court.

### PUBLICATIONS.

NEW YORK CATHEDRAL (Competition Design by R. Gibson); Chapter House and Tower, Lincoln;

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ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.  
**THE FIRM  
OF GIRDLESTONE.**  
 A ROMANCE OF THE  
UNROMANTIC.  
 BY A. CONAN DOYLE.  
 AUTHOR OF "MICAH CLARKE," "A STUDY IN  
SCARLET," ETC.

## CHAPTER XXXVII.

A CHASE AND A BRAWL.

It would be impossible to describe the suspense in which Tom Dimsdale lived during these weeks. In vain he tried in every manner to find some way of tracing the fugitives. He wandered aimlessly about London from one inquiry office to another, telling his story and appealing for assistance. He advertised in papers and cross-questioned every one who might know anything of the matter. There were none, however, who could help him or throw any light upon the mystery.

No one at the office knew anything of the movements of the senior partner. To all inquiries Ezra replied that he had been ordered by the doctors to seek complete repose in the country. Dimsdale doled Ezra's footsteps night after night in the hope of gaining some clue, but in vain. On the Saturday he followed him to the railway station, but Ezra, as we have seen, succeeded in giving him the slip.

His father became seriously anxious about the young fellow's health. He ate nothing and his sleep was much broken. Both the old people tried to indicate patience and moderation.

"That fellow, Ezra Girdlestone, knows where they are," Tom would cry, striding wildly up and down the room with unkempt hair and clenched hands. "I will have his secret, if I have to tear it out of him."

"Steady, lad, steady!" the doctor replied to one of these outbursts. "There is nothing to be gained by violence. They are on the right side of the law at present, and you will be on the wrong if you do anything rash. The girl could have written if she were uncomfortable."

"Ah, so she could. She must have forgotten us. How could she, after all that has passed?"

"Let us hope for the best, let us hope for the best," the doctor would say soothingly. Yet it must be confessed that he was considerably staggered by the turn which things had taken.

He had seen so much of the world in his professional capacity that he had become a very reliable judge of character. All his instincts told him that Kate Harston was a true-hearted and well-principled girl. It was not in her nature to leave London and never to send a single line to her friends to tell them where or why she had gone. There must, he was sure, be some good reason for her silence, and this reason resolved itself into one of two things—either she was ill and unable to hold a pen, or she had lost her freedom and was restrained from writing to them.

The last supposition seemed to the doctor to be the more serious of the two.

Had he known the instability of the Girdlestone firm, and the necessity they were under of getting ready money, he would at once have held the key to the enigma. He had no idea of that, but in spite of his ignorance he was deeply distrustful of both father and son. His heart had and often deplored the clause in John Harston's will by which the ward's money reverted to the guardian. Forty thousand pounds was a bait which might tempt even a wealthy man into crooked paths.

It was Saturday, the third Saturday since Girdlestone and his ward had disappeared. Dimsdale had fully made up his mind that, wherever he would, Ezra should not escape him this time. On two consecutive Saturdays the young merchant had managed to get away from him, and had been absent each time until the Monday morning. Tom knew—and the thought was a bitter one—that these days were spent in some unknown retreat in the company of Kate and her guardian. This time, at least, he should not get away without revealing his destination.

The two young men remained in the office until two o'clock. Then Ezra put on his hat and overcoat, buttoning it up close, for the weather was bitterly cold. Tom at once picked up his wide-awake and followed him out into Fenchurch-street, so close to his heels that the swinging door had not shut on the one before the other passed through. Ezra glanced round at him when he heard the footsteps, and gave a snarl like an angry dog. There was no longer any pretence of civility between the two, and whenever their eyes met it was only to exchange glances of hatred and defiance.

A hansom was passing down the street, and Ezra, with a few muttered words to the driver, sprang in. Fortunately another had just discharged its fare, and was still waiting by the curb. Tom ran up to it. "Keep that red cab in sight," he said. "Whatever you do, don't let it get away from you." The driver, who was a man of few words, nodded, and whipped up his horse.

It chanced that this same horse was either a faster or a fresher one than that which bore the young merchant. The red cab rattled down Fleet-street, then doubled on its tracks, and coming back by St. Paul's plunged into a labyrinth of side streets from which it eventually emerged upon the Thames Embankment. In spite of all its efforts, however, it was unable to shake off its pursuer. The red cab journeyed on down the Embankment, and across one of the bridges. Tom's able charioteer still keeping only a few yards behind it. Among the narrow streets on the Surrey side Ezra's vehicle pulled up at a low beershop. Tom's drove on a hundred yards or so, and then stopped where he could have a good view of whatever occurred. Ezra had jumped out and entered the beershop. Tom waited patiently outside until he should reappear. His movements hitherto had puzzled him completely. For a moment the wild hope came into his head that Kate might be concealed in this strange hiding-place, but a little reflection showed him the absurdity and impossibility of the idea.

He had not long to wait. In a very few minutes young Girdlestone came out again, accompanied by a tall, burly man, with a bushy red beard, who was miserably dressed and appeared to be somewhat the worse for drink. He was helped into the cab by Ezra, and the pair drove off together. Tom was more bewildered than ever. Who was this fellow, and what connection had he with the matter on hand? Like a sleuth-hound the pursuing hansom threaded its way through the torrent of vehicles which pour down the London streets, never for one moment losing sight of its quarry. Presently they wheeled into the Waterloo-road, close to the Waterloo Station. The red cab turned sharp round and rattled up the incline which leads to the main line. Tom sprang out, tossed a sovereign to the driver, and followed on foot at the top of his speed.

As he ran into the station Ezra Girdlestone and the red-bearded stranger were immediately in front of him. There was a great swarm of people all around, for as it was Saturday there were special trains to the country. Tom was afraid of losing sight of the two men in the crowd, so he elbowed his way through as quickly as he could and got immediately behind them—so close that he could have touched them with his hand. They were approaching the booking-office when Ezra glanced round and saw his rival standing behind him. He gave a bitter curse, and whispered something to his half-drunk companion. The latter turned, and with an articulately cry, a wild boast, rushed at the young man, and seized him by the throat with his raw hands.

It is one thing, however, to catch a man by the throat, and another to retain that grip, especially when your antagonist happens to be an International football player. To Tom this red-bearded rough, who charged him so furiously, was nothing more than the thousands of bull-headed forwards who had come upon him like thunderbolts in the days of old. With the ease begotten by practice he circled his assailant with his long muscular arms, and gave a quick convulsive jerk in which

every sinew of his body participated. The red-bearded man's stumpy legs described a half circle in the air, and he came down on the stone pavement with a sounding crash which shook every particle of breath from his enormous body.

Tom's fighting blood was all adame now, and his grey eyes glittered with Berserk joy as he made at Ezra. All the cautions of his father and the exhortations of his mother were cast to the winds as he saw his enemy standing before him.

To do him justice Ezra was nothing but, but sprang forward to meet him, hitting with both hands. They were well matched, for both were trained boxers and exceptionally powerful men.

Ezra was perhaps the stronger, but Tom was in better condition. There was a short eager rally—blow and guard and counter so quick and hard that the eye could hardly follow it. Then a rush of railway servants and bystanders tore them asunder. Tom had a red flush on his forehead where a blow had fallen. Ezra was spitting out the fragments of a broken tooth, and bleeding profusely. Each struggled furiously to get at the other, with the result that they were dragged further apart. Eventually a burly policeman seized Tom by the collar and held him as in a vice.

"Where is he?" Tom cried, craning his neck to catch a glimpse of his enemy. "He'll get after all."

"Can't 'elp that," said the guardian of the peace phlegmatically. "A gentleman like you ought to be ashamed. Keep quiet now! Would yer then?" This last at some specially energetic effort on the part of the prisoner to recover his freedom.

"They'll get away! I know they will!" Tom cried in despair, for both Ezra and his companion, who was none other than Burt, of African notoriety, had disappeared from his sight.

His fears proved to be only too well founded, for when at last he succeeded in wresting himself from the constable's clutch he could find no trace of his enemies. A dozen bystanders gave a dozen different accounts of their movements. He rushed from one platform to another all over the great station. He could have torn his hair at the thought of the way in which he had allowed them to slip through his fingers. It was fully an hour before he finally abandoned the search and acknowledged to himself that he had been hoodwinked for the third time, and that a long week would elapse before he could have another chance of solving the mystery.

He turned at last sadly and reluctantly away from the station, and walked across to Waterloo Bridge, brooding over all that had occurred, and cursing himself for his stupidity in allowing himself to be drawn into a vulgar brawl, when he might have attained his end so much better by quiet observation. It was some consolation, however, that he had had one fair crack at Ezra Girdlestone. He glanced down at his knuckles, which were raw and bleeding, with a mixture of satisfaction and disgust. With a half smile he put his injured hand in his pocket, and looking up once more became aware that a red-faced gentleman was approaching him in a highly excited manner.

The mask had fairly dropped from Girdlestone. No gaunt old wolf could have glared down with fiercer eyes or a more cruel mouth. "You fool!" he hissed.

"I am not afraid to die," she said, looking up at him with brave, steadfast eyes.

Girdlestone recovered his self-possession by an effort. "It is clear to me," he said calmly, "that your reason is unbroken. What is all this nonsense about death? There is nothing that will harm you except your own evil actions."

He turned abruptly and strode out of the room with firm voice. "You would kill my soul as well."

"I will not help you in it," she said, in a low but firm voice. "You would kill my soul as well."

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## OUR OMNIBUS.

## THE M.P.

Mr. Bradlaugh certainly compares to great advantage by the side of his witty colleague in the uncompromising attitude he takes up towards such catch-vote projects as the Eight Hours Bill. Mr. Labouchere has fallen to the regular wire-pulling level; there is no project, however absurd, which he would not take up, did it promise to bring over a few hundred electors to Home Rule. There is said to be some latent jealousy between him and Sir William Harcourt; "birds of a feather" don't always pull together when flying in company.

Mr. Morley put his foot into it with a vengeance when he bought the Parnellite vote last week, co-nauanting to leave Roman Catholic schools with a State endowment under the same control as at present. The Nonconformists are up in arms all over the country, declaring that this monstrous proposal is in direct antagonism to Liberal policy. So it is, of course, but what does that matter in comparison with the importance of pleasing the Parnellites? All the same, it is simply scandalous for a politician, holding the position Mr. Morley does, to propose a different sort of treatment for one sect to what he would accord to others.

Lord Randolph Churchill will not improve his position by giving the whole democratic hog, as he seems disposed to do. Conservatives have been hoping to see him become a loyal member of their party, but every now and then he seizes some opportunity to prove that he is not built on those lines. The consequence is that he has earned mistrust in every quarter, all parties agreeing to consider him a free lance of erratic impulses. That he has great talents is undeniable, but they are too often employed badly for lack of judgment and discretion.

A question addressed by Mr. Winterbotham last Monday to the Home Secretary touched the fringe of a subject which is bound to come under debate before long. It was whether certain justices had acted within the law by ordering a poverty-stricken labourer to contribute towards the maintenance of his parents. The unfortunate fellow only earns £1 a week on the average, and out of this miserable pittance he has to support three persons—his wife, a crippled son, and himself. Yet the justices ordered him to pay a shilling a week to the guardians towards the maintenance of his parents in the workhouse. Such cases are, of course, common enough, and, in the aggregate, they undoubtedly inflict a deal of suffering on the poorer classes. It would be a right good thing were the Legislature to exempt persons whose total income comes to less than a pound a week from such contributions.

Some weeks ago I predicted the likelihood of the vacancy at Stoke-on-Trent which is just announced. The seat is considered a safe one for the Gladstonites, but I hope, nevertheless, that the Unionists will put a good man in the field. They cannot afford any more walk-over like that at Mid-Glamorgan the other day; even a good licking is better than a skedaddle. The Separatists make a point of contesting every vacancy, no matter how hopeless their chance may be, and there is no question that this chronic pugnacity aids their cause largely.

If the North St. Pancras election were fought on personal grounds alone, Mr. Graham ought to win hands down. Without intending any dispraise to Mr. Bolton, he undoubtedly commands very unfavourably with his antagonist in appearance, style, and eloquence. By the way, it would be very interesting to obtain Mr. Ecclestone's private opinion of Mr. Bolton. Mr. Gibb is one of the most influential Gladstonites in the borough, and it looks decidedly queer that he has not a syllable to say on behalf of his party's candidate. Is it that he fears he would have to play Balala's part if he mounted the platform?

There is a growing feeling among the Unionist rank and file that the Times ought to be indemnified, in part or in whole, for the enormous expense it incurred in unravelling the "criminal conspiracy." So wide spread is this sense of gratitude to the leading journal that it only requires the appointment of an influential committee to ensure a splendid subscription list. Ministers cannot, of course, take any action, but there are plenty of men of light and leading in the party outside the Government.

It is admitted on all hands that Mr. Gladstone committed a terrible tactical blunder by making the terms of his amendment to the motion on the special commission so exceedingly violent. But how could he help doing so, when Mr. Parnell insisted that the amendment should be so phrased? The real chief of the Opposition is no longer Mr. Gladstone, but the man who holds some 85 members and their votes in the palm of his hand.

## OLD IZAAK.

The accidental taking of a grayling in the Thames by a London angler at Pangbourne has been the cause of several lengthy articles in the press advocating a movement to introduce these fish into our metropolitan river. It may interest many of my readers to know that attempts have been made from time to time to acclimatise good-sized in-spawn fish of this species into the waters under the control of the Thames Angling Preservation Society. Thirty years ago an effort was made in this direction, when eighty-one brace were turned into the river at Ponton Hook, Shropshire, and Sunbury in 1850. In the following year, 1861, a further consignment of 112 brace of large fish, full of spawn, were turned in at Chertsey, Halliford, and Sunbury. The fish principally came from the neighbourhood of Salisbury. Very few have been caught by anglers, and these when fishing with a worm.

Frank Buckland turned into different parts of the Thames many thousands of grayling fry; it therefore seems after these early experiments that our grand old river is not suitable for these fish. It is well-known that grayling require exceedingly pure water, and I fear our Thames standard of purity falls considerably below the desired condition. It would certainly be a great boon to those anglers fond of fly fishing who frequent the Thames if grayling could be induced to increase and multiply, as these fish are in their best condition from September to February, and would afford sport during the autumn and winter months, when trout are out of season. It is an interesting fact that out of the nine gentlemen present when the movement originated at a meeting of the committee of the T.A.P.S., March 3rd, 1860, Mr. W. Brougham is the only survivor.

The usual monthly meeting of the committee of the Thames Angling Preservation Society was held at the London office of the society, 62, Charing Cross, on Tuesday last, February 25th. In the absence of the chairman, Mr. M. H. Blamey presided. There were also present Messrs. E. G. Marston, W. Eyre, J. C. Chubb, G. Wright, G. Newsome, and W. H. Brougham, secretary. After the usual routine business, the report of a sub-committee appointed to inquire into the condition of the rearing stream at Sunbury was considered, and it was resolved to go on with the propagation of coarse fish. The reply of the Conservancy Board with reference to the desired alteration of the bye-laws, being of an unsatisfactory nature, gave rise to a lengthy discussion. Mr. R. B. Marston having informed the gentlemen present that he had received a handsome present of 500 yearling trout for the City waters, it was resolved to purchase a similar number, so as to have a sufficient quantity to place several brace in the water at the principal fishing stations above Teddington.

Herbert Curr, of Weybridge, the professional fisherman, writes:—"The water is now in splendid condition for all-round fishing. We are getting a

few nice roach. I was out with Mr. Lipscomb and got five nice jack in the back-water. I went with a customer to a private water near here jack fishing. Caught seven fish, and saw one feeding, which we estimated at over 30lb. I intend having another try for him." At Staines, J. Keene, jun., with different patrons, has been getting four dozen good roach daily, many of the fish over 1lb. each. One day, with Mr. Jones, five jack, the largest 9lb. At Sunbury, J. Platt, as the result of three days' fishing, made up a bag of 27lb. of roach and bream. At Shepperton, George Rosewell, fishing with Captain Giffard for a week, has taken twenty-five jack, largest 10lb.

The lamprey fishery at Teddington this season has been very near a complete failure. These curious fishes are, in reference to their skeleton and in many other respects, the lowest on the scale of organisation among vertebrate animals; they are cartilaginous, and live by suction, their mouth so formed as to induce a very powerful contact with the object to which they are attached, whether to stones, to prevent their being swept away by currents, or to the prey to which they adhere. The lamprey is rarely eaten, but the fishery at Teddington used to furnish a large supply to Holland, where they are used as bait for cod and turbot. Formerly the Thames supplied from one million to twelve hundred thousand annually to the Dutch, but of late years the fish have become scarcer and scarcer, and this season must prove a great loss to the fishermen engaged in the business. They are caught in egg-baskets, and are easy to keep, being remarkably tenacious of life.

I am indebted to Mr. T. Gretton, hon. sec. of the Stoke Newington Angling Society, for the following account of a specimen fish weighed in during the past week:—Mr. P. T. Gooffrey, a grand 20lb.; Mr. H. Naylor, a handsome jack, 15lb.; and Mr. W. A. Moore, chub, 3lb. The Piscatorial Society's smoking concert, held last Wednesday, under the management of Messrs. R. C. Blundell and Gordon, was a great success, and a most enjoyable evening was passed by a large number of members and friends. The annual winter dinner of this leading society is announced to take place in the Venetian Saloon at the Holborn Restaurant on March 14th. Ladies will, as on the last occasion, dine with the members.

## PIPER PAN.

A copy of the letter addressed to the London County Council by the "Proprietors of Entertainments' Association" has been sent to me, and appears to be a legitimate protest against the provisions of the "Theatres" Bill promoted by the London County Council. This bill contains regulations which are of an arbitrary character, and it is correctly described by Mr. Graham, solicitor to the association, as "an attempt to harass and oppress a particular trade and a particular occupation merely to satisfy the views of a small minority, to the detriment of the general public."

It is clearly to the interest of the proprietors of theatres and music halls that their establishments should be conducted decorously, and with scrupulous care. They cannot afford any more walk-over like that at Mid-Glamorgan the other day; even a good licking is better than a skedaddle. The Separatists make a point of contesting every vacancy, no matter how hopeless their chance may be, and there is no question that this chronic pugnacity aids their cause largely.

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win hands down. Without intending any dispraise to Mr. Bolton, he undoubtedly commands very unfavourably with his antagonist in appearance, style, and eloquence. By the way, it would be very interesting to obtain Mr. Ecclestone's private opinion of Mr. Bolton. Mr. Gibb is one of the most influential Gladstonites in the borough, and it looks decidedly queer that he has not a syllable to say on behalf of his party's candidate. Is it that he fears he would have to play

Balaam's part if he mounted the platform?

Mr. Caldicott's music is melodious and full of life and spirit. Mr. F. Wood, Mr. Albert James, and Miss Florence Darley sing well and act with genuine comic humour, and the operetta is likely to run for many months.

Herr Joachim played splendidly at last Monday's Popular Concert, and also on the following evening at the Bach Society's concert. His performance of Bach's terribly difficult sonata in C major was magnificent, and he was recalled four times by the delighted audience. In high class music of this kind he stands above all other violinists.

The Red Hussar will be performed at the Lyric Theatre for the 100th time on Monday next, and will be followed by a ball at the Marlborough Rooms.

The benefit concert on behalf of Madame Arabella Goddard is fixed for March 11th, at St. James's Hall. I cannot help noticing with regret that the instrumental music will be performed by foreign musicians.

The Thursday and Saturday evening promenade concerts at the Crystal Palace have been well managed and well attended. Mr. Manns has arranged to give the customary St. Patrick's Day concert on Saturday, March 15th. There is an Irish "bull" flavour about this arrangement, but it was unavoidable.

Mr. J. H. Mapleson informs me that the famous new tenor, Rawner, will appear at Covent Garden in the course of the ensuing season. Rawner is what Italians call a "tenore di petto," singing always in chest voice, but if report speaks truly he can sing higher notes than other tenors can produce in falsetto. I am assured that he sings up to the high D natural in chest voice with ease; also that he is a well-trained and accomplished artist.

The most remarkable tenor voice on record was that of the celebrated rival of Brahman, Charles Incledon, who could sing in chest voice the fourteen notes from A below the stave to G above the stave, and in falsetto voice the ten notes ending on the upper F. He took as much care of his voice as his love of convivial society permitted, and on one occasion, after singing one song, refused to sing another. The chairman of his club bet Incledon a bowl of punch that he should be made to sing "Black-eyed Susan" before sunrise, and Incledon went home to his lodgings.

Two hours later, when he was fast asleep, the chairman and two brother members arrived with a couple of constables and I gave Incledon in charge for stealing the chairman's watch. The accused in vain assured the constables that he was Charles Incledon. They produced their handcuffs, and were about to take him prisoner, when his patriotic friend said, "Let the impostor try to sing 'Black-eyed Susan,' and we shall soon know whether he is Charles Incledon." Shaking his fist at his tormentor, the luckless tenor sat up in bed with his night-cap on and sang "Black-eyed Susan" so splendidly that the constables—who had, of course, been bribed beforehand—expressed themselves satisfied that he was really "Muster Incledon."

## BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

Those who desire to feast their eyes on a real Egyptian mummified cat can do so by paying a visit to Mr. Brett, naturalist, 61, Greenwich-road, Greenwich. He writes me that he has a very fine specimen still in its original bandages, which he

will be happy to show to any reader of the People. There are not many papers which can thus give an introduction to a mummy.

Among other sports provided for Prince Albert Victor in India, the Maharajah of Jeypore provided a grand exhibition of falconry. In many parts of India, especially in the Punjab and Rajputana, hawking is greatly in vogue both among the classes and the masses. You will see the lordly and long-legged Sikhs marching along with a noble bird on his fist, while every Rajput noble makes a point of keeping some high-bred falcons. Some of these are trained to chase deer, and a fine sight it is to see a black hawk bounding along with his relentless feathered foe following in swift pursuit. Being, for the most part, a perfectly level country, India lends itself to the ancient sport far better than England.

An obliging correspondent at Leytonstone writes me that several foxes have lately gone into residence at Wanstead Park, where they seem to be as much at home as if London were some hundreds of miles distant. One of these vulpine colonists was seen the other day crossing a road to the grounds of Lake House, evidently on the prowl after the rabbits there to be met with. It is certainly noteworthy that a fox colony should have established itself so close to the metropolitan outskirts. Perhaps the knowing "varmint" imagine that their deadly foes, the hounds, would never look for them at such an unlikely place.

Only two or three weeks ago, I stated, with all possible explicitness and emphasis, that I cannot undertake to hold post mortem inquiries on deceased pets. Yet I have just received a defunct parrot, with a request from the disconsolate owner to ascertain the cause of death. Once more, therefore, I must reiterate that under no circumstances whatever shall I comply with such requests. To do so would involve a very serious loss of time which might be turned to much more profitable account.

W. Jay wishes to know the name of some "rooks" he has seen near Scarborough. They are, he says, larger than the common rook, and have the body iron-grey, with the head, wings, and tail black. They are really not rooks at all, but Royton crows, or, as they are perhaps more often called, hooded crows (*corvus cornix*). They are said to inter-breed with the common, or carrion, crow (*corvus corone*), so that the two species are but little distinct. The rook can always be distinguished from the crow by the bareness of the parts of the head round the beak, except in the case of young birds. The Cornish chough is not so closely allied as the above species. It is always found near the coast, and is not nearly so common. Its red beak and legs distinguish it from the other species. I mention the chough because my correspondent was inclined to think that the Lirds he saw might be of that kind.

A bird of the crow family which is becoming very scarce in this country is the raven (*corvus corax*). These birds make most charming pets, though sometimes a little too ready with their powerful beaks. My readers will remember the account of the late raven at Nice. There used to be a fine pair at the Tower of London, and I have often seen them viciously pecking at children's lexa. Every one, of course, has read of "Grip," in "Barabar Ridge," who was a portrait from life. Unfortunately the price of ravens is now more than most people feel inclined to give for a pet, as the usual charge is from 30s. to £2.

It was much amused by the account of the experiments made upon monkeys lately to ascertain whether tight-lacing was injurious to the human frame or not. Apparently it is, for several of the poor little female monkeys died after having been encircled by a broad band of plaster of Paris for a short time. My wife suggests that a plaster of Paris case is very different to stays; but, of course, I know nothing of such matters.

It has been very truly said that to the person who possesses a good microscope, and knows how to use it properly, an entirely new world is opened. Who would think that every drop of water from an ordinary pond was inhabited by tiny animals to whom life is doubtless an enjoyment, although their entire time seems to be occupied in feeding? The other day I was watching one of those tiny infinitesimal animalcules known as rotifers, busily engaged in providing food for himself by creating a current of water which forcibly dragged the smaller animals and particles of matter down his own rapacious maw; and, as I looked, I thought that to the naturalist the microscope reveals the wide extent of nature as much as the telescope does to the astronomer. The earth, the air, the water, are all inhabited by countless kinds of animated beings of which we never think, and which we crush to death in numbers almost every time we move. And these creatures, notwithstanding their puny size, are as necessary and as useful to the great order of things as the elephant, or the whale, or the eagle.

## THE ACTOR.

This is an age of revivals. Fancy the Vaudeville management fixing upon Sir John Vanbrugh's old comedy, "The Relapse," for reconstruction and reproduction at this time of day! It was brought out originally in 1697, and was re-cast by Sheridan, in 1777, as "A Trip to Scarborough." The fame of the former play is closely associated with that of Mrs. Jordan, whose representation of the heroine, Miss Hoyden—a name which has given word to the English language—was one of his greatest triumphs.

"The Relapse," by the way, was a continuation of, or sequel to, Cibber's "Love's Last Shift," which came out in 1665. Cibber's hero was a rakish husband brought back to propriety and happiness. In Vanbrugh's piece the hero has a "relapse" from virtuous domesticity, and hence the title.

Another revival with which we are threatened is that of Mr. W. G. Wills's "Juana," which, I remember rightly, has not been seen in London since it was first performed at the Court Theatre in 1881. Madame Modjeska then played the title part, Mr. Forbes Robertson was her husband (Don Carlos), and Mr. Wilson Barrett made one of his earliest London successes in the rôle of Friar John.

Donna Juana is a lady subject to attacks of aberration. One of these is brought on by her discovery of her husband's infidelity, and in the course of her paroxysm she murders Don Carlos. The Friar, who loves her, gives out that he is the criminal, and he is about to suffer for his supposed sin when Juana fortunately returns to reason and confesses what she has done. This is not a very lively theme—"nothing so doleful or dreadful," it was said at the time, "has been seen on the stage for many years"—and one wonders why the dismal work should be resuscitated.

Mr. Frank Cooper, who is to follow Mr. Alexander at the Adelphi, is a very deserving young actor. He comes of a good acting stock. His father being the Mr. Clodagh Cooper formerly associated with the Haymarket. Mr. Cooper Cliffe, now with Mr. Wilson Barrett in America, is Mr. Frank Cooper's brother. Gifted with pleasant presence, an agreeable voice, and a natural manner, Mr. Cooper should speedily become favourite with Adelphi audiences.

In "The Favourite of the King"—at Comedy matinées—Miss Louise Moodie makes her return after a tolerably long absence from the West-end theatres. At the Grand, Islington, not so very long ago—she was seen in Lady Macbeth's part in "Captain Swift." She has great command of pathetic expression, and everybody will remember how touching was her Mrs. Denham in "The Threepenny." In woe-be-gone roles she is admirable.

Mr. Benson virtually follows Mr. Wilson Barrett's example in casting young actors for the parts of the King and Queen in "Hamlet."

Gertrude is the mother of Hamlet, but she must have been personally attractive, or she would not have excited in Claudius a passion which led to the poisoning of Hamlet's father. Mr. Barrett's Claudius and Gertrude were only middle-aged. Mr. Cartwright will, no doubt, "make-up" very much as Mr. Willard did, and Miss Ferrar will be a Gertrude unusually fair.

It is a bold thing for a young and comparatively inexperienced actor to play Hamlet in London. What comparisons he at once provokes, for alas! people will make comparisons, unkind as they too often are. The latest important Hamlet in London was Mr. Wilson Barrett; the one before that Mr. Irving. It remains to be seen whether Mr. Benson has any title to rank second after these elder luminaries. His Hamlet, it seems, has been successful everywhere in the provinces; but there, country audiences are not extreme in their demands.

"The Man of Aries" is to be seen at the Grand on Monday and following nights. This will be the second of his old parts in which Mr. Hermann Vezin will have figured within a very few days. The other afternoon he appeared at the Crystal Palace as Dan'l Druse, a rôle of which, hitherto, he has been the sole impersonator in England. To me he has always seemed in this to lack real pathos at the crucial points; but possibly he may supply the pathos now after all this distance of time. Miss Laura Johnson, Mr. Vezin's promising pupil, was Dorothy Druse on the above occasion. This pretty part, by the way, was played by Miss Minnie Palmer in the States, and was one of the roles in which she secured most applause.

Mr. Clement Scott's "On a Doorstep" at the Globe Theatre on Tuesday was a disappointment. I went to the matinée expecting that, after "Adrienne Lebourier," little Vera Beringer and Minnie Terry would take part in a dramatic sketch—not a mere "copy of verses," numbering only a few strophes, and showing the very young speakers as little more than elocutionists. Besides, the lines were altogether too "high-toned" for a couple of gamins such as these. Who ever heard poor children speak in such a rounded, ecstatic sort of manner?

## GENERAL CHATTER.

Congregations at church are extraordinarily liable to become panic-stricken. When attending service last Sunday evening I was struck by the wild appearance and eccentric demeanour of a gentleman sitting a little way off. Towards the conclusion he waxed even more excited, giving utterance to his feelings in diverse criticisms of a more or less objectionable sort. Still, there was nothing in his conduct to justify the slightest alarm to a congregation which included several hundred men. Nevertheless, a regular stampede set in, and there seemed every likelihood that some of the fugitives would get injured in the crush at the doors. I regret to say that the masculine element was by no means absent in the dying crowd.

The cutting easterly wind gave the influenza an opening of which he was not slow to avail himself. Numbers of convalescents suffered a relapse, resulting in serious illness and even in death in some instances. Medical science should certainly give this hateful disorder a more distinctive and appropriate name. Sufferers would be more cautious were they not misled by the belief that influenza of the Russian type is much the same as the ordinary variety. In reality, it is an entirely distinct disease, much more approaching in character that which used to be known in India as "jungle fever."

There is nothing more dangerous for old folks and those in ill-furnished health than attending funerals during bleak weather. Mr. Gladstone had proof of this last week, but, thanks to his admirable constitution, he quickly threw off the chill that would have been fatal to most octogenarians. When a friend

## CLIPPINGS FROM THE COMICS.

(From *Moonshie*.)

Three months' detention is the sentence of Mr. Ernest Benson. Mr. Benson should never have gone to Nice, he had better have gone to "uncle."

"You're welcome to all I've got," said a genorous friend of ours, whose "all" was influenza.

There's a negro called White who is distinctly black. This fact furnished an excellent excuse for liars.

A "White Squall!"—A pale baby.

A "Safe" Experiment—Ask a burglar, he knows better than we do.

A Painful Operation—The sudden close of Her Majesty's Theatre.

A Wife in a Thousand—A Mormon's.

A "Soft" Refrain—To refrain from kissing a pretty girl when you have the chance to do it.

School Board laundries are to be established, where, we assume, the official wring will be duly imitated.

(From *Punch*.)

**DISILLUSION.**—Prudish Mother: I see, Herbert, "S.P.G." several times occurring among your expenses. I'm glad to find you can spare some time occasionally for that excellent society.—Schoolboy: It's not exactly that, mummy, dear. It stands for "sundries—probably grub."

**THINGS ONE WOULD RATHER HAVE EXPRESSED DIFFERENTLY.**—Jones (nervously conscious that he is interrupting a pleasant tête-à-tête): A—I'm sorry to say I've been told to take you into supper, Miss Belsize!

**A DIAG-NOSE-OF WINE.**—The case of champagne set before Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Davies. Of course the worthy alderman, who is a judge of wine, needed only to raise the glass to his nose. He smelt it to see if it was cork'd. But in answer to the charge of false labelling, it should have been simply pleaded that, at the manufactory, the labels were not simply put on, but Clap-on. Whether this defence would have gone to mitigate the fine of twenty pounds is another matter. The alderman's decision was given, much as the public generally pay for champagne—good or bad—that is, "through the nose."

**FORTUNATE AND ECONOMICAL.**—Druriolanus Operaticus didn't go over to Brussels the other day for nothing. What he had in his pocket at starting we are not aware, but it is certain that, while abroad, he collared a tenner, which is to last him through the ensuing season at Covent Garden. The new tenor's name is "Yoo." Beautiful name! "Why boo?" Ask Sir Pertinax Macsophant, who tells us that "bo-ing" (not "boffour") is the only way to get on in life. The tenor, if successful, will be able to reply to "Yoo" with the satisfactory answer, "Because I'm called before the curtain."

"**FESTINA LENTE.**"—Get through Lent festively.

(From *Judy*.)

**GUILTY AND NOT GUILTY!**—The Commissioners: We find you not guilty of some of the graver charges, but in future—. Policeman W. H. Smith: All right, gentlemen; I'll keep my eye on him.

**IT'S RIGHT SOOT.**—Young Soots: Sootful to hunt? Oh dear, no! I do not hunt now because certain members of my flock might take exception to it, and think I was neglecting my parish.—Miss Jones: I should think a soot throat would be just the thing to reach a high note with."

"Now, Laura," said he, over the chess board, "can you tell me how to mate in one move?" "No, George, I can't, for you've got to ask papa, but the license, and take me to church, so I don't see how you can do it, dear."

"Now then, Tommy," said the mistress of the infant school, "tell me quickly, what comes after T?" "Why, supper, of course," replied Tommy.

They sat beneath the cedar tree, and the sweet sunlight shone a peck at a time in her damask check, and lightly he placed his arm round her wax-taper waist and pressed her to his manly bosom, when, squash, oh, crack! If that there quartet of "unsweetened" wasn't bust up inside his breast pocket, and another fine illusion wafted away on the wings of fivepennorth of the best as is.

"Hello, Badger!" shouted Jones, "been to law, I hear. Which beat?" "Both beat," replied Badger. "How was that?" asked Jones. "Why, the other fellow beat me in court, and as soon as we got outside I beat him, and I'll bet he won't forget it in a hurry."

**BACK FROM THE HONEYMOON.**—George: Why, I wouldn't live a single life again for worlds!

Floss: But supposing I were to die?—George: Then I'd get married again.

**FEATHERING HIS OWN NEST.**—Lady Hardup: D'you think the Duke of Cashleigh intends to marry Bertha?—Lord Hardup: Of course, my dear, of course! Look at the presents he's given her!—a piano, a gold ink-stand, a silver cigarette case, a smoking cap, a horn, a hunting chronometer, a Gladstone bag, candelabra, a gold-headed cane, a—

**VERY DEEP.**—The sea is sometimes spoken of as the nurse of sailors. It should be added that it is a wet nurse.

**KNIFED OUT OF CHARITY.**—A rejected applicant for admission to our orphan home.

**AT AN "AT HOME."**—Young Gentleman: Yes, when I'm out I always walk in the middle of two fellas or two gals, don't-cher-know.—One of them: But you should always take the side nearest the road when you're with ladies, don't you know?—Young Gentleman: Not for this child, bai Jove! You get your trousers splashed by confounded cabs, don't-cher-know!

**BREACHES OF ETIQUETTE**—Those of a Court suit

**A BILL OF ACCOMMODATION.**—Furnished apartments.

It surely requires a sharp pair of eyes to "look dangers."

**A BILL OF SAIL.**—"Join my yacht in the Mediter-

(From *Pun*.)

**THEY WERE THE DRAKEST OF FRIENDS.**—Miss Purrington (who knows how well she looks in the mirror): You are not riding this season, dear?—Miss Lascher: No, dear; so many people ride now that one can't feel sure of not being mistaken for one of million."

**A FLIMSY ESTIMATE.**—Mr. Giblets: I ear as there's a sight 'o' gentefolks up at the 'ouse, Mr. Couples!—Head Keeper: There's a sight 'o' folks, cer'n'ty but I don't expect as there's a f' pun note amongst 'em.

**ANOTHER LITTLE COMPLIMENT GONE WRONG.**—Mr. Middlings: Awfully smart dance this, isn't it?—Miss Prepperty: Yes, indeed. After talking to so many clever people it's quite a change to come across somebody—like you.—And there was an awkward pause.

**THE PARNELL PHEW-SHOW.**—Showman Smith: On the right you observe the Hirish fellow a-wallerling in his crimes; on the left you see the Hirish martyr a victim of "mistakes of detail" and guiltless as the babe unborn.—J-hony Bull: Please, sir, which 'em is Mr. Parnell?—Showman Smith: Which ever you please, my little dear; you pays yer money and you takes yer choice.

**ONE VIRTUE DOES NOT MAKE AN ESTIMABLE CURATE.**—Miss Potts: How do you like the new curate, dear?—Miss Jecks: Oh! he'll be lovely for the summer, dear, if he only plays lawn tennis as well as he intones.

**THE SIR TURNED CRUSTRY.**—Miss Lotta Gushe: What lovely port, Mr. Beeswing, I suppose it's very old?—Beeswing: I believe you, Why, I should think when I put that wine down you were quite a baby.

**A FRIENDLY MEETING.**—Maud: Well, what did you think of the meet?—Edith (thinking only of the duncheon): Oh! wasn't it a wfully underdone? I couldn't eat mine—it was simply raw.

**A "MAN" of the World.—The Isle of Man.**

(From *Funny Folks*.)

**ANOTHER INJURY TO IRELAND.**—Sir Edward Watkin, it is said, proposes to unite the north of Ireland with the south of Scotland by means of a tunnel. The scheme is likely to fail, because it may be regarded as a cut direct to Ireland!

**IRRESISTIBLE.**—Really, you know, we can't help looking upon the rush after the mummy cats which were knocked down at half-a-crown a piece at a sale by auction at Liverpool as a very more bid fancy!

**IN TACUF TIMES.**—Mr. Picton has determined to renew his crusade against the tea duties, but although he has picked on a useful sphere of labour, his efforts are not, it is said, greatly favoured in the House. But, perhaps, having taken up tea, he depends for his applause upon the cup that cheers. Anyway, show I provoke a debate on his pet theme, he will be able to enjoy a veritable tea fight.

**TACUF.**—Tair, Tair, Tair!—The Vesey Club proposes a trip to Norway this summer. As the club is going en masse we trust that the party will move Vesely. We also hope that there will be no wheezy—we mean Vesey—ones among the number; for persons who found foreign climbs too much for them would only impede the party, and should have the sense to stop at home. To make a complete success of

the Veseytation, however, there should be (as there probably are) plenty of photographers in the team; for in such an odd trip as this the tripod (not to speak of the camera) should play an important part!

**WHO'S ZOO?**—Our Own Cockney has been feeling very uneasy ever since he read in the newspaper an announcement from Japan that Mount Zoo was in eruption, and had done 2700,000 worth of damage to surrounding property. He says, nervously, that he supposes it'll be Primrose Hill's turn to erupt next.

**A GOLDEN WEDDING.**—A marriage for wealth.

The School for Scandal—A Jerry-built board school.

**A MAID OF HONOUR.**—Joan of Arc, whom the French ecclesiastics are about to canonise.

**KEEPING AN EYE TO HER WORK.**—A sempstress, when she's using her needle.

**A FINISHING TOUCH.**—The coup de grace.

**VALENTINE NOTE.**—A bow'e of bliss: Cupid.

**KICK AND KARE.**—A really benevolent millionaire.

**A SUPPER PARTY.**—The much-banqueted Mr. J. L. Toolie.

**JOURNALISTIC ITEM.**—Enterprising "report"ers:

The judges of the Parnell Commission.

**PROVIDE FOR THE FUTURE.**—Song with which to welcome the return of Mr. Toole from the antipodes: "When 'Johnny' Comes Marching Home Again."

**A PRIVATE GRUDGE.**—The sort of ill-feeling which the young Duc d'Orléans has against the French Government, which wouldn't allow him to enlist as a common soldier.

(From *Ally Sloper*.)

"There's nothing in life so wretched as absolute uncertainty," said Tootsie remarked when she couldn't make up her mind to sit down, because she was not quite sure whether Alexandria had split the earthingsworth of change mixed pine in the armchair or whether he hadn't.

"Oh, madam—lor! bless you, don't be frightened—that ain't the kitching b'iler bust up agen'?" It is only cousin Jack a-kissin' our Eliza behind the aine door."

"Well," exclaimed a he person, "have you decided whether you will go to the pantomime or to the Alhambra this evening?" "I haven't made up my mind yet, dear," replied his spouse. "Oh, hang it! What with making up your mind and making up your face, you won't be ready to start until it's time to come home."

Kiss me, my own, he said,

Kiss me, my love, my sweet;

And then he bent his manly head.

Until young lips did meet.

Kiss me, my own, she said,

My love so kind and tender;

And then he bent his manly head,

And snap went his suspender.

"Try and sing it, old man," remarked Smith,

"at the 'smoker,'" It would really be of no use," said Jones. "I could never reach the high notes to-night." "Why not? What's the matter?" asked Smith. "I've got a sore throat," answered Jones. "I should think a soot throat would be just the thing to reach a high note with."

"Now, Laura," said he, over the chess board, "can you tell me how to mate in one move?" "No, George, I can't, for you've got to ask papa, but the license, and take me to church, so I don't see how you can do it, dear."

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**THE SCHOOL BOARD AND THE POOR.**

**A DISTRESSING CASE.**

At Southwark Police Court, before Mr. Fenwick, Richard Richardson was brought up on a warrant, taken out at the instance of the School Board authorities, for neglecting to send his child to school and failing to obey an order of the magistrate to attend the court.—The School Board visitor said that an order was made upon the defendant to send his daughter to school, but no notice had been taken of the order, and a warrant was issued.—Mr. Fenwick: Do you know why the child is kept at home to fetch beer for her mother.—Prisoner: That's a falsehood; my wife has been very ill.

I know nothing about the summons.—Witness: The wife is not ill at all.—Moffatt (the warrant officer who arrested the defendant): When I called at the house this morning, your worship, the prisoner's wife, was lying on a bed. She appeared to be very ill indeed, and could hardly speak.—Mr. Fenwick (to Moffatt): I shall be glad when these cases come on if you will let me know the facts. I am much obliged.—Witness: The wife is outside the court.—Prisoner: Yes, sir, when she found me was locked up she dressed herself and came here. Call her in and see for yourself.—The prisoner's wife, who was poorly clad and seemed very ill and suffering from pain, entered the witness-box had to be accommodated with a seat. She said: My husband knows nothing about it. I have been in bed with pleurisy and bronchitis.—Mr. Fenwick: You look very ill. I don't think you should be out on a cold day like this.—Witness (crying): Your worship, they (the School Board officers) have been very hard on me while I've been ill. Look at me now, and it's through them that I had to come out. I could not lie in bed and know he was locked up.—Mr. Fenwick: Don't cry or upset yourself; get home at once. I'll adjourn the case for a month; but mind, if you are not well enough to come here, send some one else. Don't let your husband come here, because I suppose he loses a day's work. I will remand your husband on his own recognisance for one month, but at the end of that time I shall want to know something about the case, and not be left in the dark, as I have been before, which has caused the warrant to be issued and all this trouble and hardship.—The defendant then left the dock, and the wife appeared to be so ill that she had to be assisted by Moffatt out of the court.

**BODY-SNATCHING IN AMERICA.**

A New York telegram states that some men

whose suspicions had been aroused made their

way quietly to a burial ground at New Albany,

Indiana, and there surprised three doctors of

Louisville and two negroes in the act of robbing

two graves. They seized the culprits, who

offered resistance, and in the struggle one of the

negroes was shot dead. It appears that the

doctors, taking advantage of a tremendous

thunderstorm which was raving, stole from Louis

ville to New Albany, which is on the opposite

bank of the Ohio, and having obtained the

assistance of the negroes, proceeded to the

cemetery, which they hoped to find entirely

deserted. It is assumed that their object was to

procure a dead body for dissection.

**AN UNUSUAL SCENE AT A WEDDING.**

An unusual scene was witnessed at the registry

office, Wimborne, on the occasion of the marriage

of a resident named John Joyce, age 66, with his

domestic servant, a girl about 20 years of age.

John Joyce buried his first wife on Friday, February 21st, and great indignation was expressed when it

became known that he was to be married again.

About 400 people assembled outside the office, and

greeted Joyce with groans and hisses

## THE THEATRES.

## ST. JAMES'S.

The sympathetic reception accorded to Mrs. Langtry when she first came upon the scene as Rosalind on Monday night must, indeed, have been felt by her as compensation for the severe illness which, on the very day assigned for her advent as manageress, postponed the event for a month. The elder Kean was wont to aver that the first round of applause was as good as a glass of brandy to him. In quite another sense the spirit was ready but the flesh was weak on Monday with the favourite actress newly risen from a bed of sickness to assume the most arduous character in comedy, and the trial before her became more difficult. For it was nothing less than the crucial test whether, after an absence of years from the metropolis, she was to be accepted as an accomplished actress, winning her way by force of histrionic art, or as an intelligent amateur, again courteously accepted for sake of her grace of presence and personal charm. It was not long after the curtain rose upon "As You Like It" that the distinguished audience crowding the theatre settled the moot question for themselves. Though Mrs. Langtry up to the close of the wrestling scenes gave no special indication of power with the exception of the dignified reproof to the usurper Duke in assertion of her father's honour, the great stride she, by sheer hard work and study, has made in her art became apparent directly Rosalind appeared masquerading as Ganymede in the Forest of Arden. That the actress had become mistress of her powers was seen in her entire absorption in the character. The ever-changing lights and shades constituting the witchery of Rosalind's nature, developing the deepest feeling of the passion of maidenly love half masked by the highest intellectual outflow of mother wit, found little short of the most perfect expression in the scenes in which Orlando is captivated into wooing the girl through the disguise of the boy. The arch tones of the voice, changing with each rapidly successive mood of fancy or feeling, were thoroughly accordant with the rapid facial play of feature and correspondent grace of gesture. Perilously trying in their length these wooings seen between Rosalind and Orlando are when monotonously played; but, as enacted for her part by Mrs. Langtry, "time could not with nor custom stale their infinite variety," for she carried the audience by sheer force of histrionic ability along with her in pleased admiration to the end, when the exquisite love-game fairly played out and won, the sweet player resumes the attire of her sex and receives her happy reward. There was but one conviction in the minds of the audience when the performance was over, that the actress in giving herself the most severe test in all the range of comedy had risen to the height of the greatest achievement, and in so doing surpassed all her previous efforts. As regards the cast generally, at best it was unequal. The Adam of Mr. Everill was, in its pathetic sincerity, worthy of the Rosalind; and even higher praise is due to Miss Marion Lea for her impersonation of Audrey. The quaintness, without the coarseness, of the purely unsophisticated country wench, with mouth agape with pleased wonder at the quips and cranks of Touchstone, has never received truer or more pithy humorous expression. The Touchstone was wholly negative and without expression, except that of a gentleman of modern society playing the fool in masquerade of cap and bells. Mr. Sudgen, if he has any perception of the sententious humour of the pedant jester, quite lacks the histrionic ability to indicate it either by glance, tone of voice, or gesture. The Jaques of Mr. Bourchier, though picturesque in presence and natural in manner, is scarcely marked by the distinctive individuality with which Shakspere—who invented this character, interpolated by him into the original story—has invested it. The actor conveys no presentiment of the mentally abstracted mocking cynic, morbidly introspective, following the Duke into exile, not like the rest of the courtiers out of personal loyalty, but because he himself would also choose to shun the world in which he has been crossed in love or fortune. When not in bawdy Jaques is in reverie, a mood in which Mr. Bourchier fails to present him. The Orlando is still less convincing, inasmuch as Mr. Cautley, unlike Mr. Bourchier, fails to convince the thoughtful spectator even by his presence. Rosalind's love, who throws the practised wrestler, Charles, should at least bear the promise of a man outwardly; while from within ought to come the glow of youthful passion indicative of a lover's romantic enthusiasm, and more especially with such a love as Rosalind. But in neither of these aspects was he presented by the actor, who is too petty alike in action person and simulation of feeling to realize the character. Indeed, it was a question which looked the manlier youth, Ganymede or Orlando. Celia found an intelligent exponent in Miss Amy McNeill, and Phoebe a rather pretty one in Miss Newell, who may, however, be gently reminded that the rustic maiden's treatment of Silvius is the outcome of coquetry rather than aversion. The faithful swain was acted with convincing earnestness by Mr. Matthew Brodie. The cast was efficiently completed by Mr. Fulton as the banished Duke and Mr. Norman Forbes as the First Lord. Thanks to the artistic direction of Mr. Lewis Wingfield the scenery and costumes of the play, as well as its grouping, were invariably picturesque; and the admirable rendering of the music, with the Masque of Hymen at the close, made the general presentation complete. But its culminating triumph was found in the delivery of the epilogue by Mrs. Langtry with a tender grace underlying its arch sprightliness, which drew the heartiest acclamations for the gratified actress from the no less gratified audience.

## SOUTH LONDON PALACE.

The entertainment Mrs. J. J. Poole is just now putting before her patrons is, perhaps, one of the smartest that has been forthcoming here for some time, notwithstanding their excellence as a rule. The principal attraction is a grand patriotic tableau illustrating Mr. Stanley's work in the dark continent, entitled "Stanley in Africa." This has been written for Mr. Charles Godfrey, and gives him an opportunity of introducing a capital song of welcome to the brave explorer. Mr. Harvey introduces a remarkable couple of dwarfs, said to be the smallest people in the world. A most eccentric act is arranged by Mr. Tom White, who introduces a troupe of street Arabs of extraordinary precociousness. The female gymnast, Geraldine, goes through some graceful evolutions on the trapeze; and Messrs. Didier and Firth present a ninth-moving musical act. Mr. Joyful Joe Colver sings the praises of his better half with such earnestness as to excite envy in the breasts of his listeners. Miss Sallie Waters has a charming song, "Gathering roses," and dances gracefully; Miss Marie Collins also contributing effective songs and dances. Mr. J. H. Woodhouse's verses on the glories of old Ireland are good; and Mr. F. Law, besides being an able manager, proves himself a clever comedian when occasion arises. The programme is concluded by a sporting interlude, entitled "Neck or Nothing." This is a very excellent sketch, and is ably interpreted by Messrs. Harrington, Howard, and Coningsby, and Misses Le Mara and Ninon. The benefit of the popular proprietress, Mrs. Poole, is fixed for Tuesday, March 13th, and not as previously announced.

The little slip made by Mr. Hermann Vezin in mentioning the names of two or three of his pupils in commenting upon their artistic shortcomings to an interviewer has been most handsomely apologised for by our premier elocutionist in a letter to the press. Lovers of sound legitimate acting will rejoice to hear that Mr. Vezin will shortly appear in a revival of "The Man of Airlie."—The fall of the roof of the new Flora Concert Hall at Hamburg brings to the memory of old playgoers the identical accident which occurred half a century ago to the Coburg Theatre, with the difference that no lives were lost in the earlier disaster, whereas three men were killed

and eight were badly injured in the later one.—Well-merited derision has been incited by the monstrously arrogant proposal of Mr. Fardell and some of his fellow-members of "the MacDougal creature" type on the London County Council to ask Parliamentary powers authorising these wisseuses to compel singers, reciters, and performers in stage plays to crave from them annually a moral certificate of good conduct. Imagine Messrs. Irving, Willard, Hale, and Tree, with Miss Ellen Terry and Mrs. Kean, "with bated breath and whispering humbleness," waiting upon their jacks-in-office for permission to continue in the exercise of their art!—Louise Michel, the female Communist, of all people in the world, has been writing the libretto for a comic opera, bearing the title "Das ist Lune" ("In the Moon"), which is reached by means of a balloon. This phantasy, judging by its theme, seems to have been inspired by Jules Verne.—In aid of the Distressed Irish Ladies' Fund, a comic opera, in two acts, has been composed by Lady Arthur Hill. This work, entitled "The Ferry Girl," is to be given at several performances early in May with a professional orchestra and chorus, but with the prominent characters sung and acted by musical amateurs of society.—An English translation of the "Antigone" of Sophocles is shortly to be done by a company of aristocratic amateurs, comprising Lady Maidstone as Antigone and Mr. De Lisle as Creon. Verily, what the classic satirist said of ancient Rome is becoming no less applicable to modern England—*Natio comedie est: the people are all actors.*—The Marylebone Theatre, built sixty years ago, is to be sold by public auction in March.—The Royalty is again shut up, and Mr. Arthur Roberts is off on a provincial tour. The syndicate management, including himself, Mr. Augustus Harris, and another, have it stated, lost £6,000 by their four months' season in the Dean-street theatre. Mr. Leopold Lewis, the adaptor of "The Bells" for the Lyceum, and of "The Wandering Jew" for Adelphi, was seized with a fit recently in the Gray's Inn-road, and carried to the Royal Free Hospital, where he died.—"Coriolanus," a new play by Mr. Henry Hoyt, an Australian dramatist, will be tested at a Comedy matinée on April 17th at the instance of Miss Olga Brandon, who is to personate the heroine of the piece, a strongly emotional character.—On March 15th Mr. George Alexander will take up the part of Dr. Bill at the Avenue when surrendered by Mr. Fred Terry, who goes to the Haymarket to rehearse an important character in "The Broken Seal," the adaptation of the French drama, "Le Secret de la Terre," designed to supersede "A Man's Shadow" at Easter.—"The Old Homestead" drama, which has long been running in New York, will be the next production, with the original cast, at the Princess'—Mr. H. A. Jones has a paper in the Musical World setting forth a plea for dramatic education. Surely this is already being impeded in the best possible way through such plays as "The Middleman."—Mr. Benson produces "Hamlet" at the Globe on the 5th March, himself playing the Prince and Mrs. Benson Ophelia.—The statement that a theatre is to be built in Piccadilly upon the site of the still-existent Egyptian Hall is premature. No plans have as yet been sent in to the County Council.—"Zanetta" is the title of the forthcoming new Alhambra ballet to take the place of the "Army and Navy" divertissement.—The 20th performance of "Aunt Jack" was given at the Court last Monday.—"Beauty and the Beast" will be the subject of the next Christmas pantomime at Drury Lane.—Mr. Henry Neville has accepted an offer to play in America next season.—Sir William Terriss, who is back from America, will not rejoin the Adelphi company at his place, filled during his absence by Mr. George Alexander, will be taken by Mr. Frank Cooper.—Miss Linda Dietz, pleasantly recalled as a refined actress under the Hare and Kodal régime at the St. James's, has just brought out a play in New York, called "The Stepping Stone," which, unfortunately, has proved a failure.—The Kendals have scored yet another great success in New York in "The White Lie."—A special entertainment will be given at Marlow's Palace of Varieties Bow, for the benefit of the proprietor, Mr. F. Marlow, on Wednesday, March 5th.—The attractions at the outlying theatres next week will be as follows:—Grand, Mr. Hermann Vezin and company in "The Man of Airlie" and "The Merchant of Venice"; Pavilion, "The Belle of Haslemere"; Britannia, "New Babylon"; Surrey, "Silver Falls";—The Aldershot North Camp Theatre of Varieties will shortly be re-opened, after structural alterations and re-decoration, by Mr. J. Pappa.

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## COUNTERFEIT SOVEREIGNS.

At the Croydon Police Court, Joseph Dell, 23, described as a shoemaker, who has already served sentence of five years' penal servitude for house-breaking, was charged, on remand, with uttering counterfeit sovereigns, namely, gilded jubilee shillings, with intent to cheat and defraud Edwin Aldien, a grocer, of London-road, Croydon, and various other tradesmen. He was now further charged with burglariously breaking and entering the dwelling-house, 3, Howden-road, South Norwood, on November 10th, 1889, and stealing therefrom a quantity of plated and other goods, valued at £40, the property of Mr. Edward Markwick; and also with a burglary at Lake View, 24, Silver-road, Upper Norwood, the residence of Mr. Angelus Beyfus, and stealing therefrom articles valued at £30, on November 12th, 1889. Mr. C. E. Stredwick, from the solicitor's department of the Treasury, again appeared for the prosecution; and Mr. G. W. Dennis, solicitor, was for the defence. The solicitor's table was covered with the stolen property which the police have succeeded in tracing, and the articles—consisting of plate, Oriental fabrics of Japanese manufacture, a liqueur casket, elegantly-bound books of poetry, romance, and travel, &c.—excited the curiosity of a crowded court.—Beatrice Gregory, daughter of a stationer, carrying on business at Selhurst-road, Selhurst, stated that on 5th February the prisoner came into the shop and asked for a framed scriptural text (produced), which was in the window. The text was "For Thy loving kindness is ever before mine eyes." Witness supplied him with it, and he handed her what she believed at the time to be a sovereign, and she gave him 1s. 6d. change. The coin subsequently proved to be a jubilee shilling gilded over.—Mr. Stredwick proposed going into two charges of burglary against the accused. In one case the police had been successful in recovering the whole of the stolen property.—Mr. Edward Markwick, of 3, Howden-road, South Norwood, said that on the night of November 10th he retired to rest with his family at 11.30. At that time his house was perfectly secure, but on the following morning the cool gave him certain information, and he found that the two windows of the kitchen were wide open, and the scullery window also. The place was in great confusion. He missed a quantity of plate, and from the passage an inverted cape and a brown hat. He now identified the whole of his property, which was worth £40. He had heard no noise during the night in question.—Mr. Angelus Beyfus deposited that the value of the property stolen from him was £30.—Mary Anne Field, a wardrobe dealer, of Coldharbour-lane, Camberwell, stated that on the 4th February she purchased of the prisoner some plated goods, including the pair of christening mugs identified by Mr. Beyfus, for 30s.—Inspector Harris, W Division, deposed to searching the prisoner's house, assisted by Detective-servants Stemp and Ward, and finding portions of the proceeds of both burglaries. At the house of the prisoner's aunt was found a jewel box containing, among other things, some of the stolen property and the prisoner's bank book.—The accused, who asked no questions, was again remanded for the completion of the depositions.

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## VOLUNTEER GOSSIP.

[Communications intended for this column should be delivered at the office not later than 4 p.m. on Thursdays.]

Two events of the week will form many a topic for discussion among the Volunteers. The adjutant-general has openly stated that we are possessed of the best rifle in the world, and has spoken warmly in favour of the Bisley site for future meetings of the N.R.A., over which he has seen 6,000 men firing ball cartridge without its being attended with any accident. This admission may, by arrangement with the council of the N.R.A., lead to a sort of joint occupation of the land; but, if so, the War Office will certainly have to pay for the right of user. But Lord Wolseley's speech, after all, was not very flattering, for he remarked although there was present at the annual dinner of the North London Rifles Club a body of men which comprised the very best shots in the world, and whom he would back to shoot against any regiment or any army in the world, yet it was not a sin to say, as he believed, that we could not produce a single Volunteer battalion which could shoot against an infantry battalion of the Line.

This is straight speaking, certainly, and what is more, the statement is as truthful as plain. The same thing has been said over and over again by those who have not yet attained the rank and fame of Lord Wolseley; but still we have been allowed to go on year by year in the same slovenly track, pinning our reputation on the splendid shooting of a couple of score of intelligent gentlemen whose frequent attendance at prize meetings has placed them in the rank of professional marksmen. But on the great body of the force itself the Government have been year after year imposing fresh obligations; so that, looking at its present condition, one may well express surprise, with Sir Edward Hamley, at its "having done so much for the State and the State so little for it."

There has been a great deal written and said with regard to the diminution in the strength of the force during the year 1889. But, probably, the question was gone into thoroughly, it would be found that the 5,000 who have fallen out of the ranks could easily be spared. In the first instance, it would be very strange indeed if in such a body there was not a number of malingerers who would shirk the extra duties they have recently been called upon to perform; and, for the same reason a number of old hands would, naturally enough, send in their resignations. If the pruning knife were set to work, fully one-fourth of the men now in the ranks would be weeded out. What the country wants is not a huge and cumbersome body, but a smart, active, and serviceable one, composed of men who, in the prime of life, have acquired such an amount of military training as fits them for the performance of all the requirements of the soldier.

Thanks to the *Globe*, attention has again been directed to the very unsatisfactory state of things in connection with the London Brigade of the Royal Naval Artillery Volunteers. Certainly, a very fair case for inquiry has been made out, but the question is, By whom should such inquiry be conducted? The Admiralty have more than once stated they don't know what to do with the force, and have never definitely decided what place it should have in our defensive line. In fact, it is a force which has been patted on the back by officials and neglected officially. The time has, however, now arrived when, in justice to the brigade itself, the many ugly rumours which have of late been in circulation should be set at rest.

A matter, perhaps a trifle in itself, is at present agitating the minds of the ringleader Artists. Effigies of Mars and Minerva are to be stiched on their "muff" caps. Some of the men are asking from what source the money is to come, and why all the members should not be provided with great coats and the debt on their hall paid off before expending money on further personal adornments. It is grimly suggested that a portion of the grant given to the corps by the committee of Sir James Whitehead's Fund will be applied to this purpose. But this is going too far. Still, all sorts of reports will doubtless be in circulation concerning the grants from that fund until we see the balance-sheet, and further, for what specific purpose the money was given to certain corps.

Several complaints have reached me with regard to the reduction of camp and travelling allowances, and Mr. Ritchie comes in for some of the hard knocks which are given to other members of the Government. That portion of his speech to the 2nd Kent A.V.'s, in which he says he felt the greatest interest in the Volunteer service, which was both good for the country and the individual, and that he would like to see more brigadiers with regular troops, comes in for a good deal of criticism, and the question is asked, if this be so, why then should he and his colleagues consent to a restriction in the travelling allowances which it is argued, would practically exclude country corps from taking part in manoeuvres held any considerable distance away from their headquarters? Now, all such matters are really decided by the military authorities, and it is not at all improbable that not a single member of the Government, except Mr. Stanhope, knew anything about the circular until it was issued by order of the Commander-in-Chief.

The season for lectures is now drawing well on to a close, and after next month we shall not hear of many until next November. Colonel Londale Hale ought to have a good attendance on the 11th and 21st March, when he has consented to address the officers of the Home District Tactical Society at the Royal United Service Institute. Members of the Metropolitan Sergeants' Institute, and the Royal Engineers will be admitted on presentation of their card of membership.

The splendid condition of the 2nd Middlesex Artillery Volunteers on the occasion of the Duke of Westminster opening their new headquarters was the theme of general conversation among several officers present. It has always had the credit of being a hard working and useful corps rather than a showy one. It is proposed to raise another battery for the brigade at Stamford Hill, and there is no doubt but that such a proposition, when submitted to headquarters, will receive official sanction. Perhaps if a little new blood was thrown into the brigade, and one or two of the older battery officers make way for younger men, the corps would become even smarter than it is at present.

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At the London Court of Bankruptcy on Thursday

an application for an order of discharge was made by Arthur Henry Barker, late of Duke-street, Piccadilly, and Totis, Hungary, jockey. The debtor attributed his insolvency wholly to a liability for £1,000 damages and £50 costs upon a judgment recovered against him in April last in an action for breach of promise of marriage at the suit of Miss Constable, of Epsom. The official receiver did not oppose, but on behalf of Miss Constable it was submitted that the bankrupt ought not to be whitewashed without paying a shilling. The discharge was granted, but subsequently the registrar allowed notice to be given of an application to rescind.

SAN LONDON.—Company and recruit drill on Monday, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, at 8.30 p.m.; Saturday, at 8.30 p.m.; Sunday, at 9 a.m. Special day on Saturday, at 8.30 p.m.

VOLUNTEER REGIMENTAL ORDERS.

On Tuesday, Drills:—A drill hall, on Monday, at 8 p.m., F Company on duty; Tuesday, at 8.30 p.m., recruits only; Saturday, at 8.30 p.m., Commanding officer's parade; Sunday, at 9 a.m. Drills:—A drill hall, on Monday, at 8 p.m., F Company on duty; Tuesday, at 8.30 p.m., recruits only; Saturday, at 8.30 p.m., Commanding officer's parade; Sunday, at

## THE FINSBURY PARK MURDER.

## Suicide of Barrett.

Richard Barrett, who was charged with the murder of a man named Edward Thomas, at Finsbury Park in January last year, was arrested by the New York police, at the instance of the Scotland Yard authorities. The prisoner subsequently cut his throat with a brace buckle, and tore open the wound with his fingers. He died shortly afterwards. The circumstances of the murder with which Barrett was charged were of a brutal and mysterious character. Shortly after midnight on January 18th, 1889, Police-constable John Stevens, 37 years old, was on duty in Clifton-terrace, Finsbury Park, when he saw Thomas, who was otherwise known as Williams, standing outside the Railway Hotel, with only his shirt and trousers on. He complained that he had been shot at No. 3. The constable returned to the house, and, on reaching the top landing, where a man named Charles Turner, aged 37, was standing, Thomas said, "The man who actually shot me has gone, but Turner also threatened to shoot me." Thomas added that Turner had a revolver in his hand, whereupon Turner was arrested. Turner replied, "I did not shoot, nor have I got a revolver." Thomas was taken to the Great Northern Hospital, where his depositions were taken. His statement was that Turner and his wife were on the stairs creating a disturbance. They had just pulled an old woman, one of the lodgers, out of bed. Thomas, who was going to bed, opened his room door and asked what was the matter, whereupon Turner called up another man (whom the deponent did not know), who had a revolver in his hand, and said, "Charley" or "Styles" "shoot him." He was then shot. Thomas positively swore that Turner also had a revolver in his hand, and that Turner had threatened to shoot him a few weeks before. Thomas, who was twenty-four years of age and a betting man, died on the following Sunday evening. A rigorous search was made for the missing man, whose identity was speedily established, but the efforts of the detectives were for a long time unavailing. Barrett was well known as a dangerous criminal. His record was kept in the police annals at Scotland Yard, and his photograph in their museum.

## THE CHILD MURDERS IN WARSAW.

## Shocking Details.

Details have come to light about the child murders committed in Warsaw by the midwife Skublinski and other women. Skublinski resided in an attic, and the other inmates of the house, who all belong to the working classes, knew that she secretly received young illegitimate children "to nurse," as she said. In reality, she, with several other women, carried on a regular trade in murdering infants. The attention of the police had already been drawn to this woman, and an unexpected examination of the house revealed several cradles with two and three babies in each. As Skublinski had no right to receive mothers and newborn children, she had to promise that thenceforth she would take no more young infants into her house. Notwithstanding this, the police on a subsequent occasion found three babies. She was, in consequence, summoned, and the hearing was fixed for the 19th February before the justice of the peace. But as she feared that her appearance in court would bring her disgraceful trade to light, she resolved to destroy all traces of the crimes. During the night of the 17th she set fire to her lodging, after having first murdered the children committed to her charge. Then she stood in the yard of the house among the excited crowd and quietly waited to see what would happen. As the house was only built of wood, she evidently hoped it would be completely destroyed. But one of the inmates of the house suddenly remembered the woman in the garret and her charges, and called out to the firemen to save the children. Then Skublinski was for the first time seen standing in the yard, and when she was asked if the children were already saved, she answered that they were no longer with her. In the meantime, the firemen had so far succeeded in subduing the fire that one of them penetrated into Skublinski's lodging, and, not knowing what she had said, immediately began to search for the children. He soon found one little corpse, and then two more. They were taken down to the yard, and a doctor who happened to be present declared that the children were not choked by smoke, but that a crime had been perpetrated. Four more corpses were discovered, on one of which were distinct traces of the skull having been battered in. Consequently Skublinski and the other women were arrested. All the corpses were taken to the hospital, and it was proved that they had died a violent death. Their age could not be decided on, although none of them appeared to be older than six weeks. Collins for ten to fifteen children were made by a carpenter. Skublinski is over 30 years of age; she is a handsome woman, but has a hard, cold expression in her eyes. In her youth she was in service, and afterward became a mid-wife, but mostly attended the poorer classes.

## A HUSBAND IN A CUPBOARD.

A remarkable trial has commenced in Southern Montpellier. The defendant is a M. De Caunes, who contested a seat at the last general elections, and he stands charged with attempting to murder the lover of his wife, a M. Galibert, formerly a leading magistrate at Beziers, but now a practising barrister. It is alleged that M. De Caunes having had his suspicions aroused by the conduct of his wife, announced that he was about to undertake a long journey. According to the form prescribed in all such cases, instead of setting out on his tour, the watchful husband hid himself in a cupboard in his wife's bedroom. The consequence of this was that the early rising inhabitant of Beziers saw a tremendous drama enacted one fine morning on the balcony of M. De Caunes' residence. M. Galibert appeared at an open window calling for help. Behind him was M. De Caunes, with a Derringer or a Colt in his hand, while near the two stood Madame De Caunes in her nocturnal habiliments, wringing her hands in a supplicating manner. Then M. Galibert was seen to fall suddenly, just after a report from a revolver had been heard. A ball had struck M. Galibert behind the ear, and there it still remains. But M. de Caunes, instead of following up his vengeance, had his rival put to bed, sent for a priest and doctor, and then had himself arrested. From M. de Caunes' own statement it appears that after having waited until his wife and her unlawful admirer had gone into the lady's bedroom, he went to sleep in his dining-room, and awaking early in the morning he drank some coffee and cognac, armed himself with two revolvers, wrote a letter to the Procurator of the Republic, and finally proceeded in search of his rival. M. Galibert's defence is that M. de Caunes was the man complainant of the tragi-comedy, and he says he has letters to prove the allegation. Another witness is to declare that on the night of M. de Caunes' mythical departure, M. Galibert put on his cap and coat of magistracy, and went through a mock trial in Madame de Caunes' dining-room for the amusement and instruction of that lady.

During last week "A Man's Shadow" drew large houses at two London theatres. While the success of the piece is still in the ascendant at the Haymarket, its production at the Grand Theatre, Islington, by Mr. Tree's company has been attended with the most gratifying results, crowded audiences having nightly testified to their admiration of the play.

At the Metropolitan Asylums Board meeting it was stated that, so far as fever was concerned, there had been a diminution of 85 cases during the past fortnight. The admissions during the last three fortnights had been 194, 203, and a diminution in the two weeks under review to 166. The numbers under treatment in the corresponding periods had been 1,538, 1,454, 1,369, so that it would be observed that there was a rapid decrease.

## AN IMPORTANT POINT AS TO VACCINATION.

At the meeting of the Croydon Board of Guardians, some important correspondence on the subject of vaccination was read. A month or two since Dr. Campbell, the principal of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, at Upper Norwood, was summoned before the Croydon magistrates for neglecting to have one of his children vaccinated, and in urging his objections to the operation, the doctor, through his son, who appeared for him, alleged that some of the inmates of the college owed their affliction to vaccination. Since then a full inquiry has taken place at the college, with the result that a letter was now read from the hon. secretary of the institution, enclosing a report from Dr. Hethel, the medical officer. From the latter it appeared that out of 140 pupils who were blind, eight attributed their misfortune to the effects of vaccination; but after investigation it was proved beyond doubt that their blindness had resulted from other causes, and not from vaccination. The chairman and the medical officer's report was very valuable to vaccination officers throughout the country, and the board decided to have it printed and circulated. Since the police court proceedings, Dr. Campbell has complied with the law.

## SOME EXPERIMENTS IN TIGHT LACING.

The evil effects of tight lacing have been discussed and demonstrated well nigh ad nauseam, though the exhortations to reform have not so far received the amount of attention from the fair sex that their importance and the persistence of the reformers would warrant. It has (says the *Medical Press and Circular*) fallen to Dr. Lauder Brunton to afford a further demonstration of the pernicious effects of this practice in a way at once original and somewhat entertaining. In the course of the investigations carried out by him in conjunction with his colleagues of the Hyderabad Commission on the vexed and highly technical question of chloroform versus ether, it occurred to him to try what effect a mode of dress which was likely to interfere with respiration would have in causing sudden death under an anaesthetic. The experiments were carried out on female monkeys, for the simple reason, as Dr. Brunton ingeniously explains, that they are more like women than dogs are. A monkey belonging to the sex was accordingly enveloped in a plaster of Paris jacket to imitate stays, and a tight bandage was then tied round the abdomen so as to imitate the band which would sustain the petticoats. It is with mingled feelings of curiosity and sympathy that we learn of the result of the experiments, which is reported to have been "very marked indeed," so much so, indeed, that several of the monkeys died "very quickly." Dr. Brunton added that the survival of some of the animals experimented upon was probably due to the fact that the diaphragm is able to compensate to a large extent for the enforced loss of chest movement; nevertheless, if our lady friends do not take this lesson to heart, and learn from the fate of these tight-laced monkeys how serious a thing it is to handicap nature in the endeavour to simulate the graceful outline of the wasp, the medical philanthropist may well despair of ever being able to bring reason to bear on dress.

**ALLEGED FRAUDS ON SHOPKEEPERS.** At the Southwark Police Court, Alfred Hastings, 26, a clerk, was, on remand, charged with obtaining six shirts, value 19s. 6d., from James Sweet, by means of false representations. At the former examinations evidence was given in support of another charge of attempting to obtain six shirts by similar means from Alfred Hastings & Sons, hosiers, of Westminster Bridge-road. On that occasion the case had to be adjourned because of the illness of the prisoner, who was seized with a fit in the dock. A third charge of obtaining six umbrellas, value 23s., from Catherine Brand, of Deptford Broadway, was now investigated. The prisoner called at the shop of the prosecutrix and asked that half a dozen sample umbrellas should be sent to a neighbouring public-house "for the governor to select one from." A boy was sent with the umbrellas. He was met outside the public-house by the prisoner, who took the parcel from him, and said he would take it upstairs, telling the messenger to wait outside. After waiting for a considerable time, the boy made inquiries, and found that no umbrella had been sent for by "the governor," and that nothing was known there of the prisoner, who had evidently left the house by another door. One of the umbrellas was pawned the same day in the Old Kent-road. It was stated that there were several cases of a similar character. Mr. Fenwick committed the accused for trial.

**[ADVERTISEMENT.]**

EASTER HOLIDAYS FOR ALL.—A 480 Piano for nothing. £200 Cash Prizes. First Prize (Pain's Easter Gift), £100 Cash of England Note. Second Prize, win a big prize to go for a good Easter Holiday. Competition open to all, and the best time for entry is the first week in April. The £200 cash, £48 Piano, and £48 Watch will be sent, carriage paid, to your door on Wednesday April 2nd. You get them before you pay for them. Competition no. 2, £100 Cash, £20 Piano, and £20 Watch. All to be sent, carriage paid, to your door on Wednesday April 2nd. You get them before you pay for them. Competition no. 3, £100 Cash, £20 Piano, and £20 Watch. All to be sent, carriage paid, to your door on Wednesday April 2nd. You get them before you pay for them. Competition no. 4, £100 Cash, £20 Piano, and £20 Watch. All to be sent, carriage paid, to your door on Wednesday April 2nd. You get them before you pay for them. Competition no. 5, £100 Cash, £20 Piano, and £20 Watch. 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# THE PEOPLE, SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 1890.

## DRURY LANE

(THE NATIONAL THEATRE).  
AUGUSTUS HARRIS, Sole Lessee and Manager.  
EVERY EVENING at 8.0, and EVERY MONDAY,  
WEDNESDAY, and SATURDAY, at 1.30. AUGUSTUS  
HARRIS'S Pantomime, JACK AND THE BEANSTALK,  
produced on a scale of splendour surpassing in magnificence  
the displays offered to the public by Mr. Augustus Harris in  
previous years, and performed by a Company of Comedians  
each of which is an acknowledged attraction in himself. The  
following list of artists speaks for itself.

**JACK AND THE BEANSTALK** at DRURY LANE.—  
Messrs. Harry Nichols, Dan Lame, Jan  
Grimm, Edward, John, and Leopold Brothers, Pieron,  
Stanton, Carl Alba, Harry Payne, and Herbert Campbell;  
Misses Harriet Vernon, Marie Charles, Anna, Anna,  
Sybil Grey, Wilson, Conyngham, Charteris, Deering, Bennett, Lila  
Clay, Desborough, and Maggie Dugan.

**JACK AND THE BEANSTALK** at DRURY LANE.—  
The Daily Telegraph says—“A brilliant  
spectacle and a very amusing tissue of drolleries, quite devoid  
of pathos or pathos. The pantomime begins in sweet  
humour, and in sweetness and light it ends. Mr.  
Augustus Harris has literally outdone himself. The pantomime  
was a distinct and unimpaired success.”

**DRURY LANE**—PRICES: Prices Boxes from £1.10. to  
£4.00; orchestra, 10s.; grand circle, front row, 2s.; other rows, 4s.;  
balcony, 2s.; pit, 1s.; lower gallery, 1s.; upper gallery, 6d.  
Performances commence at 1.30 and 7.15. Box-office open  
7.0. Early doors open at 10.0 to 5.0. Box-office open  
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early from 10.0 a.m. to 1.0 p.m. Children admitted at Half-price  
early from 10.0 a.m. to 1.0 p.m. Early doors open at 10.0 to 5.0. Business-manager, Mr. R.  
D'Alberton.

## LYCEUM.

### THE DEAD HEART.

A Story of the French Revolution.  
EVERY EVENING at 8.0 o'clock. **THE DEAD HEART.**  
Mr. HENRY J. HASTINGS, Mr. B. STERLING, Mr.  
Lightfoot, Phillips, and Miss ELLEN TERRY. Box-  
office, Mr. J. Hurst; open daily, 10.0 to 5.0; seats also booked  
by letter or telegram. Carte at 10.45.—LYCEUM.

## ADELPHI.

A. and S. GATES, Sole Proprietors and Managers.  
EVERY EVENING at 8.0, the New and Original Drama,  
L.A.Y. DAY. Characters by Mr. George Alexander, Messrs.  
Matus, J. D. Beveridge, J. L. Shinn, Lionel Tammie,  
Abbinson, Theo. Barker, M. A. Alma Murray,  
Nordine, Clara Jecks, Miss Kate James, Miss Charlotte Elliot  
and Miss Mary Rose—Doors open at 7.0. **THE MARRIED**  
BACHELOR at 7.15. Box-office open daily, 10.0 to 6.0. The  
Theatre lighted entirely by Electricity.

## PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

ENORMOUS SUCCESS OF **MASTER AND MAN**.—The  
greatest play of modern time.—TELEGRAPH says—“Com-  
plete success was honestly deserved. Long may such  
heavy play...” From Wednesday, at 7.45 and each Wednesday  
night, at 2.30. Henry Pettitt and George S. Sims' Powerful  
Play, **MASTER AND MAN**, in which the following artists will  
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Percy Brandon Thomas, Sidney Howard, Charles  
Dalton, Bassett Roe, Fred Shepherd, George Dalziel, E.  
Mayer, E. Webster Lawson; Miss Kate James, Miss Charlotte Elliot  
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**BACHELOR** at 7.15. Box-office open daily, 10.0 to 6.0.  
Theatre lighted entirely by Electricity.

## GAETY THEATRE.

Lessee and Manager, GEORGE EDWARD.  
EVERY EVENING at 8.0, punctually at 8.00. The Burlesque,  
BUY BLAS AND BUY BOYS, by C. Torn,  
and His Comedy Club—Music by Herr Meyer, Louis, in which Miss  
Nelly Farren, Miss Marion Hood, Miss Sylvia Grey, Miss  
Letty Lind, Mr. Fred Leslie, Mr. Dalton Somers, and Mr.  
Fred Lloyd will appear. The Royal Orchestra and Chorus, Con-  
ductor, Herr Meyer. Box-office open daily from 10.0 to 6.0.  
Business-manager, Mr. C. J. Abud.

## STHAND THEATRE.

OUR FLAT.—The Most Refined and Amusing Farce  
Comedy ever written is now daily approaching its 300th  
Performance, and the public can see the **STHAND THEATRE**—  
OUR FLAT. Furnished with a Lift, Electric  
Bell, Speaking Tube, and all Modern Improvements.—On view  
every Evening at 8.00. Wednesday, and Saturday Afternoon  
at 2.30. PRECISELY 10.00. **BOYS WILL BE BOYS**.  
NIGHTLY, at 8.0. First Time at this Theatre of W. G.  
Wille's Great Play, **THE MAN O' AILRIE**, with Mr.  
Hermann Voss in his original part. Preceded each evening  
at 7.30, by THE CLOCKWORK, and THE MERCHANT  
OF VENICE—Business-manager, Mr. H. A. Freeman.

## HAYMARKET THEATRE.

Lesser and Manager, Mr. H. BERROHIM TREE.  
EVERY EVENING at 8.0. **A MAN'S SHADOW**, by  
Robert Buchanan. Mr. Tree, Messrs. Fernandez, Kemble;  
Madame Tree, Julia, Madeline, Nelly, and Tom. **THE  
QUEEN'S CLOTHING**. Box-office open 10.0 till 5.0  
Mrs. Leverton, where seats, from 2s.—can be booked, also by  
letter or telegram. Pit Circle (unreserved), 1s. 6d.; Gallery, 1s.  
MORNING PERFORMANCES on Saturday Next, March 10th,  
and following Saturday, at 2.30.

## ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.

Sole Lessee, Mrs. LANGTRY.  
EVERY EVENING at 8.0, AS YOU LIKE IT. Messrs.  
Laurence Nauman, Arthur Bourchier, Charles Angliss,  
Fred, Evelyn, and others. **THE CHAMBERLAIN**.  
Misses Eliza, Harry Payne, and Herbert Campbell;  
Misses Harriet Vernon, Marie Charles, Anna, Anna,  
Sybil Grey, Wilson, Conyngham, Charteris, Deering, Bennett, Lila  
Clay, Desborough, and Maggie Dugan.

## JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

at DRURY LANE.—  
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## THE DAILY TELEGRAPH.

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D'Alberton.

## VAUDEVILLE THEATRE.

Sole Lessee and Manager, MR. THOMAS THORNE.  
EVERY EVENING at 8.0. **CLARISSA**, New Drama,  
by Robert Buchanan. Great Success. Mr. Thomas Thorne,  
Messrs. T. B. Thalberg, Cyril Maude, Oswald York, S.  
Blythe, Horace F. Green, W. H. Denny, Frank  
Whitford, Phillips, and Miss ELLEN TERRY. Box-  
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plete success was honestly deserved. Long may such  
heavy play...” From Wednesday, at 7.45 and each Wednesday  
night, at 2.30. Henry Pettitt and George S. Sims' Powerful  
Play, **MASTER AND MAN**, in which the following artists will  
appear—Mr. Fred Leslie, J. B. Barnes, David Bowes-Lyon,  
Percy Brandon Thomas, Sidney Howard, Charles  
Dalton, Bassett Roe, Fred Shepherd, George Dalziel, E.  
Mayer, E. Webster Lawson; Miss Kate James, Miss Charlotte Elliot  
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workmen and ratepayers, would have a decided interest in the accomplishment of good and honest work." As ratepayers! Just imagine a lazy and dishonest workman—and there are plenty of them, just as there are plenty of lazy and dishonest gentlemen—forbearing to scamp his work because he is a ratepayer. We cannot help thinking that the person who composed that manifesto must have been having a little joke at the expense of the committee. Nevertheless, we and the public are bound to take the thing as seriously meant. And as such, we do not hesitate to denounce it as an outrageous piece of trade union tyranny and folly. The very conditions which Messrs. Peto impose are imposed in the interests of the men as well as in their own. If any participants in profits were allowed to misconduct themselves and to diminish profits with impunity, the loss would fall upon the men who participate as well as upon Messrs. Peto. Apparently the committee are too stupid to perceive that, but, whether they perceive it or not, it is an obvious fact. The truth is, that schemes of profit sharing are heartily distasteful to trade union leaders, because they see that if masters and men once get to act together for their common good there will be no further need of trade unions. It is to the interest, it is necessary to the very existence, of trade unionism that masters and men shall be enemies. As long as trade union leaders thought they could obtain shares in profits on their own terms, they clamoured for such schemes; but now that employers are beginning to offer them they oppose them with all their might. Trade unionism would like to have the system on its own terms, for the benefit of the men alone, which they never will; the masters are offering it for the benefit of both parties. When the working man gets fairly hold of that fact, and consents to identify his interests with those of his employer, trade unionism—which has done good work in its time—will find its occupation gone. And the sooner the better, say we, if the trade union leaders exhibit no better sense than the authors of this senseless manifesto.

**THE LLANERCH COLLIERY DISASTER.** The inquest on the victims of the Llanerch Colliery disaster was resumed at Pontypool on Thursday. The principal witness was a checkweigher named Jones, appointed by the men, who produced the reports of the workmen who examined the pit twice on January 14th. They stated that the pit was free from gas and in good working order. The coroner, in reply to a deputation, promised to recommend the Monmouthshire County Council to amply remunerate the workmen in attendance to give evidence.

**A WELSHER SENT TO PRISON.** At Wolverhampton on Thursday, Henry Pearson, alias William Riley, described as a betting man, was sentenced to three months' imprisonment, with hard labour, for obtaining money by fraud. The prisoner was at Dunstall Park Steeplechase on the previous day, where, in concert with another man, he made bets with a number of people on one of the races, and just before the finish the prisoner's confederate disappeared with the money.

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**SINGULAR DYNAMITE FATALITY.** Extraordinary evidence has been adduced at Plymouth on an inquest held concerning the deaths of two men, William Gullett and George Tapper, who were killed by a dynamite explosion at Egg Buckland, near Plymouth. It appeared they were thawing a quantity of dynamite, which for the purpose they placed in an old straw hat over boiling water on the fire, the result being that some dynamite percolated through the meshes of the hat to the bottom of the pan holding the water, causing a terrible explosion by which the men were both killed. The owner of the quarry where the accident occurred had not read the rule affecting dynamite, and the jury, in returning a verdict of accidental death, strongly censured him.

**AN IMPOVERISHED EMPEROR.** A Paris correspondent mentions the reasons which are supposed to have influenced Dom Pedro in his resolve to renounce his title to the Crown of Brazil, and to ask leave to return to his former subjects. The pressure of poverty is being sharply felt by the whole imperial family, and rather than dismiss those who followed him into exile, Dom Pedro has resolved, if possible, to make terms with the United States of Brazil. If allowed to go back, he intends, it is said, to devote himself to botany and other natural sciences.

**MISTAKEN FOR DEAD.** One of those terribly sad and sometimes fatal errors of mistaking unconsciousness for death has just taken place at Alessandria, in Piedmont, and the victim of it narrowly escaped being buried alive. A young woman who had suffered much from convulsions passed into a state of coma. She was dead, thought by those who were about her to be dead, and when a medical man was called he shared the opinion, and gave a certificate accordingly. By-and-bye she was confined, the funeral day came, the cortège started, and had reached the cemetery before anything unusual happened. The jolting of the hearse seems to have aroused the sleeper, for as the coffin was being borne from the hearse to the grave sounds were heard proceeding from it, and the bearers felt a movement produced by the body within. The lid was hastily torn off, when the young woman was discovered alive and conscious, and, as might be expected, in a state of extreme agitation. She was immediately removed to the public hospital, where she is doing well. In Italy, where cremation or burial usually takes place within thirty-six or forty-eight hours after supposed death, facts of this kind are not without grave significance. A doctor in Rome has compiled and published statistics to the effect that several thousands of persons are annually buried in a state of coma throughout Europe.

**A JOURNALIST'S LIBEL ACTION.** Mr. Justice A. L. Smith, with a common jury, had before him the case of Tasker v. Boyd and others. The plaintiff, Mr. William Tasker, a journalist, professionally known as Edgar Lee, a sub-editor of the *St. Stephen's Review*, sued the proprietor and printers of the *Hawk* newspaper to recover damages for alleged libel. The defendants denied that the words complained of were defamatory, and also pleaded that in their fair and ordinary meaning they were true in substance and in fact. The words complained of appeared in February and March, 1889, and were to the effect that the plaintiff was the manager of the Elephant and Castle Theatre, and that a receiver had been put in. The plaintiff, whose only connection with the theatre was that he had lent the lessee £700, contended that the imputation was that he could not properly carry on his duties as a journalist, and that he was insolvent. This, however, was denied by the defendants, who said the paragraphs in question contained no imputation upon the plaintiff's character of solvency or that of the lessee; the order for a receiver being made on a foreclosure action. Further, the defendants said that the paragraphs were inserted in reply to attacks upon the *Hawk* in the plaintiff's paper. The jury gave a verdict for the plaintiff, damages £25. Judgment accordingly.

**RAILWAY RATES INQUIRY.** On the resumption of the Board of Trade inquiry into the railway rates on Thursday, Mr. Holden addressed the court on behalf of the Cattle Dealers' Association in opposition to the railway companies' proposed maximum charges, contending that a fair margin for profit could be obtained without adding to the terminals and reducing the number of stock to be carried in each truck.—Mr. Phillips, bedstead manufacturer, of Birmingham, gave evidence in opposition to the proposed rates and classifications specially affecting his trade.—Lord Balfour of Burleigh announced that the inquiry would not commence in Dublin so soon after Easter as had been contemplated. He also stated that the coal and iron trade case would be taken on Wednesday next, to which day the court adjourned.

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## ACTION FOR BREACH OF AGREEMENT.

### \$5,000 Damages.

Baron Huddleston, with a special jury, had before him on Thursday the case of Judge Cycle Company v. Stoddart, Lovering, and Co. The plaintiffs are manufacturers of bicycles and tricycles, carrying on business at Coventry, and they sued the defendants, who are commission agents, carrying on an extensive business at Bradford and in America, to recover damages for an alleged breach of an agreement, by which the defendants agreed to become the plaintiffs' sole agents in America for a period of five years. The plaintiffs alleged that in 1887, the agreement having been entered into in 1886, the defendants wrongfully terminated the agreement, and sold their stock of bicycles and tricycles to the firm of Pope and Co., who were the plaintiffs' rivals in trade in America. In consequence of this the plaintiffs said they had sustained great loss, which they put at £10,000. The defendants denied that there was any breach of the agreement, and said that if there was a technical breach the plaintiffs were only entitled to nominal damages, as, in face of the American firms, the business was unprofitable, which was the cause of their giving it up. They also relied upon the fact that as the plaintiff company had been reconstituted since the agreement, they were not entitled to sue. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiffs, damages £25.

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## THE WEEK'S DIVORCE CASES.

### "MR. ABINGTON" A CO-RESPONDENT.

#### £500 DAMAGES.

In the Divorce Division on Thursday, Sir James Hannan and a common jury had this case before them. The petition was that of Mr. Francis Darbshire for a divorce by reason of the alleged adultery of his wife (Miss Agnes Hewitt, the actress) with the co-respondent, Mr. George Baird, otherwise known as "Mr. Abington," the gentleman rider. Against him there was a claim for damages. Answers were filed denying the charge, and there were counter-allegations against the respondent. Mr. Willis, Q.C., and Mr. Middleton appeared for the petitioner; Mr. Barnard for the respondent; and Sir C. Russell, Q.C., Mr. Innes-Wick, Q.C., and Mr. Germaine for the co-respondent. Mr. Willis, in opening the case for the petitioner, said Mr. Darbshire was now a young man about 28 years of age. For some time he was in business in Manchester, but that business not proving a profitable one, in 1884 he found employment on the stage, becoming an actor. He took part in many pieces. It was in 1886 that he became acquainted with his wife, whose stage name was Agnes Hewitt. He was introduced to her at the house of a gentleman now dead, at 26, Gower-street, where the lady was passing as Mrs. Sothern. Mr. Sothern died in April, 1887, and in May, 1887, Miss Hewitt took the Olympic Theatre. In June, 1887, Mr. Darbshire proposed to Miss Hewitt, and was married to her in the same year. Before this, however, he was acquainted with the fact that a child was living with her. In March, 1888, the Olympic proved a failure. Mr. Darbshire became bankrupt, and Mr. Darbshire himself had to file his petition. In March, 1889, they formed a touring engagement in the provinces, and in the middle of that month they found themselves at Liverpool, where they met the co-respondent. While in a box at the races Mr. Darbshire saw Mr. Baird speak to his wife for a few minutes, and that was all that he knew there of any intimacy between Mr. Baird and his wife. The engagement at Liverpool was to last till Saturday, March 30th, and the next place the company was to visit was Leicester, on Saturday, the 30th. On this Saturday Mr. Darbshire expressed a wish to go home to London, and she left, he not having the slightest suspicion; he promised to return to him on the Monday evening. She did return, and on the Tuesday they came to London to go through the bankruptcy examination. Mr. Darbshire returned to Leicester on the Wednesday, but his wife said she was unequal to the task, and did not return till the Friday. When the time came for the company to go to Bradford, Mrs. Darbshire said she was unwell, and returned to London. Mr. Darbshire stayed with his wife until the 22nd April. On that date he found in his wife's dressing-case certain papers. They were in the handwriting of the co-respondent, and pointed to a certain amount of intimacy. On finding these letters Mr. Darbshire said to his wife that there was something wrong between her and Mr. Baird. She became very excited, and admitted that there had been an intimacy between herself and Mr. Baird; that on the night she left Liverpool for the purpose of coming to London on account of illness she and Mr. Baird came to London together; that she went to Mr. Baird's house, in John-street, Berkeley-square, and that there she had committed adultery with him. The husband was charmed by the co-respondent with having committed adultery.—Sir C. Russell: We do not propose to give any evidence in support of that charge.—Mr. Willis was instructed to say there was not the slightest foundation for this charge. Another charge was that the husband and wife were prosecuting this suit in collusion. As to that charge, the allegation was that the husband and wife were prosecuting the suit for purposes of their own, but there was not a word of truth in that charge. It was alleged that the wife had given her husband money during the proceedings, but the petitioner would tell them that he never received one penny. With regard to the damages, they would have to assess them in view of all the circumstances. That Mr. Baird knew the respondent was married would be shown, for any compensation to a husband who had been injured by the wrongful act of another man.—The jury found for the petitioner, and assessed the damages at £500.—A decree nisi was granted.

**A FRENCH CO-RESPONDENT.**

The case of Leck v. Leck and Thommeret was heard before Mr. Justice Butt. This was the husband's petition praying for the dissolution of his marriage on the ground of his wife's misconduct with the co-respondent, a Frenchman, and the son of a Bordeaux wine and produce merchant. There was a claim for damages, and the petition was defended by the wife, who alleged condonation of the respondent.—Samuel Thomas Leck, a clerk in the Inland Revenue Department of the Civil Service, stated that he was married to the respondent, and that she was then known only by her stage name of Edith Russell, at Argyle-square, King's Cross, and she remained there from April, 1888, until November of the same year. The respondent and the co-respondent lived there as man and wife. The respondent afterwards told her that she was married, and that her real name was Mrs. Lamb. She had visited her since that time, and on every occasion found her living with the co-respondent as his wife.—No further evidence was called, and his lordship pronounced a decree nisi, with costs, against the co-respondent, against whom the jury assessed damages at £50.

**THE JUDGE'S VIEW, AND VERDICT.**

—His lordship, addressing the jury, said the case in a very narrow compass. The adultery of Mrs. Darbshire with Mr. Baird was not disputed. As to collusion, he was not surprised that that question had been raised. The circumstances, at least on the part of the wife, were most surprising, but Mr. Darbshire stood free from imputation. The adultery, then, being proved, the only question which remained was the question of damages, and on this point there were two elements to be considered. The damages which were given in these cases were compensation to the husband for the wrongful act of the co-respondent. They were to establish, not only that the husband had sustained damage, but it had to be established against the alleged wrongdoer, and a man was not a wrongdoer merely because he had had an intrigue with a woman. That court was not there to punish misconduct, it was only there to give compensation to a husband who had been injured by the wrongful act of another man.—The jury found for the petitioner, and assessed the damages at £500.—A FRENCH CO-RESPONDENT.

The case of Leck v. Leck and Thommeret was heard before Mr. Justice Butt. This was the husband's petition praying for the dissolution of his marriage on the ground of his wife's misconduct with the co-respondent, a Frenchman, and the son of a Bordeaux wine and produce merchant. There was a claim for damages, and the petition was defended by the wife, who alleged condonation of the respondent.—Samuel Thomas Leck, a clerk in the Inland Revenue Department of the Civil Service, stated that he was married to the respondent, and that she was then known only by her stage name of Edith Russell, at Argyle-square, King's Cross, and she remained there from April, 1888, until November of the same year. The respondent and the co-respondent lived there as man and wife. The respondent afterwards told her that she was married, and that her real name was Mrs. Lamb. She had visited her since that time, and on every occasion found her living with the co-respondent as his wife.—No further evidence was called, and his lordship pronounced a decree nisi, with costs, against the co-respondent, against whom the jury assessed damages at £50.

**A SHOEBLACK IN TROUBLE.**

At the Guildhall Police Court, Edward Nixon, 21, shoeblack, was charged on a warrant with assaulting George Clifford, a shoeblack.—Mr. Walter Beard appeared to prosecute, on behalf of the Central Shoeblack Society, Saffron Hill, and said that the prisoner was formerly a shoeblack in the employ of the society, but, owing to his misbehaviour, he was turned out of the society. He said he would show that a very disgraceful system was taking place, and he thought that very likely it would be necessary to adjourn the case in order that another person might be brought before the court. It appeared that the prisoner enticed boys to frequent a coffee-house in Ivy-lane, where in an upper room they played a game at what is commonly known as "shove-it-penny" for stakes. Instead of getting their living, they left their boxes and gambled away their earnings, which they should give to the superintendent of the society. On Monday week this state of things was going on, and Clifford, who seemed to be an expert player, won several games. This annoyed the prisoner, and he struck the complainant a violent blow in the eye. A summons was issued, but as the prisoner failed to answer it, a warrant was granted, and he was arrested in this coffee-house by Detective Parsons.—Evidence bearing out the opening statement having been given, Sir Reginald Hanson imposed a fine of 2s. 6d. and 7s. 6d. costs, or seven days' imprisonment. He did not, he said, think proceedings could be taken against the coffee-house keeper, as it was a game of skill and not of chance. Yet he should advise the boys to keep away from places where gambling was carried on.

**THE ASSAULT ON A MEDICAL MAN.**

At the Hampstead Police Court, Mrs. Ann E. Somerville, aged 47, a married lady, residing in Grosvenor-road, South Norwood, but formerly living at Hampstead, was brought up from Holloway Gaol and charged on remand with assaulting Dr. Herbert Cooper, a medical practitioner at Hampstead, and divisional surgeon to the police. From the opening statement of counsel at the first hearing and the evidence given, it appeared that some seven years ago the prisoner, when living with her husband at Hampstead, was a patient of Dr. Rose's, and he, with Dr. Cooper, the prosecutor, signed a lunacy certificate, under which she was removed to Camberwell House Asylum, where she remained only a short time. Recently she brought an action for libel against Dr. Rose and Dr. Cooper in reference to the certificate. The Lord Chief Justice, however, dismissed the case when it came before him in October last, as the action had not been brought by Mrs. Somerville within a year of her discharge, as required by the Lunacy Acts. Mrs. Somerville, with the deliberate intention of doing something to bring her case before the public, went to the house of Dr. Cooper on the evening of February 18th. When Dr. Cooper saw her he declined to have anything to say to her, opened the hall door, and told her to leave the house. She, however, drew from her pocket a toy whip, struck Dr. Cooper across the face with it, and would only leave the house after a constable had been fetched, and on condition that she should be charged with the assault.—The following certificate from Dr. Gilbert, the medical officer of Holloway Gaol, was now received:—"Elizabeth Somerville, in my opinion, is of an excitable temperament and of somewhat impaired intellect, but while here has shown no indications of actual insanity." The bench, after hearing some evidence, inflicted upon the prisoner the highest penalty that lay in the power to impose for the assault—namely, £5, or in default two months' imprisonment—and they further ordered her to enter her own recognisance of £50, with one surety in £50 or two in £25 each, to keep the peace for six months.—A gentleman in court paid the £5 fine, and the prisoner said she had telegraphed to her husband, who, she expected, would become bail for her.





**"THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.**

There have been heavy snowfalls in Greece during the past week.

A policeman in Indianapolis has carried a bullet in his brain for the last four years.

During a dense fog on the 22nd ult. a watchman named Tippin, walked into a graving dock at Birkenhead, and was killed.

An ice house near Ashland, in Wisconsin, collapsed while thirty-five workmen were in the building. The majority were injured, some fatally.

It is announced that the Bishop of Bangor is about to tender his resignation of the see, which he has held since 1889.

The railway station at Balatonic has been destroyed by dynamite. Thirty persons were more or less seriously injured.

In Vienna a girl thirteen years and eight months old has given birth to a boy in the Foundling Hospital. The child does not weigh quite 3lb., and is not likely to live.

Serious rioting, supposed to be connected with politics, is reported from Coimbra in Portugal. The administrator was shot at and severely wounded, and other persons were injured.

Cremation at Woking is now so common that it is not reported. The average is two or three bodies per week. Many believe that before long the increase will be sudden and enormous.

The experimental boring for coal between Dover and Folkestone is proceeding at the rate of a foot and half with satisfactory results, and fresh shafts are to be sunk to ascertain the direction of the supposed coal seam.

According to the official returns, there was a further slight increase in the death rate of London last week. The mortality from influenza was smaller, but there were more deaths from diseases on the respiratory organs, though these were a little below the average.

A newsyndicate is being formed for the shipment of meat from South America to Liverpool. The undertaking is being carried out by a gentleman who was the promoter of two large companies now shipping meat from America and paying large dividends.

A novelty in lady lecturers is promised. This is Miss Olaf Krarer, an Esquimaux young lady. She is the first woman of her race who has ever come forward as a public lecturer. She is said to speak English with great fluency and intelligence, appears in native costume, and only stands forty inches high.

John Hicks Dawson, an Englishman, holding the position of sexton at the church in Wicksville, Nebraska, suddenly became insane, after suffering from an attack of influenza. While in a delirious condition he played, during the service, the "Devil's Dream" on the chimes, and then threw himself from the steeple and was killed.

The Lord Mayor has added his name to the committee formed to promote the Stanley and Ironmongers' Exhibition will be held at the Agricultural Hall from March 17th to 29th. Any one interested in these professions and trades will receive a ticket admitting to the exhibition on sending a postcard to the offices, 43, New Oxford-street, W.C.

In the Queen's Bench Division, Mr. Justice Mathew has ruled that Sir Halliday Macartney, as British secretary to the Chinese Embassy in London, could not be called upon to pay rates to the Marylebone Vestry, he having the privilege of exemption in respect to rates accorded to members of foreign embassies residing in this country. Execution was stayed in view of an appeal.

The Lord Chief Justice and the Master of the Rolls have given judgment in two suits, in which the question at issue was the validity of two bills of sale granted to the Consolidated Credit Company, in respect of loans on furniture at 60 per cent. interest. The bills were pronounced informal and void, but leave to appeal was given, as counsel intimated that there were many bills of sale in the same form.

The roof of the "Flora" Crystal Palace and Concert Hall, which was just approaching completion at Hamburg, fell in with a tremendous crash. A number of men who were working in the interior of the building at the time were buried beneath the débris. Steps were at once taken to extricate them, and three were found dead, while eight others were badly injured. The colonnades and gardens were seriously damaged.

The receipts on account of revenue from the 1st of April, 1889, when there was a balance of £5,552,002, to February 22, 1890, were £78,600,159, against £78,087,132 in the corresponding period of the preceding financial year, which began with a balance of £7,617,072. The net expenditure was £74,658,049, against £75,041,518 to the same date in the previous year. The Treasury balances on February 22, 1890, amounted to £6,239,109, and at the same date in 1889 to £6,244,929.

Mr. Mote, a solicitor, and two tradesmen applied to the magistrate at Dalston Police Court for summonses against seven bandits, a lady "captain," and other persons connected with the Salvation Army, for playing noisy instruments. Summonses were also issued against Mr. Braxwell Booth and Mr. Barrett, "field secretary," for aiding and abetting. Mr. Corser said he would grant the summonses and appoint a special day for hearing them.

The managers of the Metropolitan Asylums District brought an action against Messrs. Kingham and Sons for non-fulfilment of a contract to supply a quantity of eggs. Although on September 22nd the defendants wrote that there was an error in their accepted tender, the managers on October 6th affixed their seal to the contract. Lord Justice Fry, who tried the case, gave judgment for the defendants, remarking that the seal of the managers was affixed too late to make it a valid contract.

A man named Pietchkeff, while repairing some electric wires at Pierre, South Dakota, received a shock and fell from a height of 100 feet, fracturing both thighs. Believing that his end was near, the man confessed that he was a Russian exile who had been implicated in a plot in 1889 to assassinate the Czar by means of dynamite. He also named several prominent Russian officials as having been likewise parties to the conspiracy, and declared that he had documents in his possession which would prove the truth of his statements.

At the General Steam Navigation Company's meeting, Mr. J. H. Tritton, who presided, stated that the late strike had cost the company the equivalent of a full 10 per cent. dividend for the whole year. Their employees were not ill-paid, and he had every confidence that their good sense would ultimately prevail. It was disappointing to see hundreds of tons of cargo which ought to have come to their ships diverted to other routes. But London had so many advantages that it could compete on higher terms with any of its rivals, always, however, within strictly defined limits.

Sir Horace Davey, in replying to the arguments which had been urged in defence of the Bishop of Lincoln on the charges of practising an illegal ritual, urged that, while the Church allowed much liberty of opinion, it required a uniformity of ritual, as furnishing a common ground upon which members of all opinions could meet. If a minister might not introduce variations of ritual of his own accord, neither might a bishop. This closed the arguments, and the Archbishop of Canterbury said he would take time to consider his judgment.

Lord Seaborne, who was entertained by the Liberal Union Club at a dinner, referred to the report of the special commission. He said he had always been of opinion that a select committee of the House of Commons would have been the least fit body to examine the questions raised by that commission, and he thought the public had gained by this investigation by a tribunal of judges. Of even more importance than the reputation of particular men was the system which affected the general welfare of the whole community, and on this subject the verdict of the

judges, tending towards exoneration, was exceedingly qualified and measured.

There were 2,762 births and 1,847 deaths in London last week.

Three young ladies have been drowned near Friedberg by the breaking of the ice upon which they were skating.

Different forms of violence caused seventy-seven deaths in London last week. Sixty-seven of these were attributable to accident or negligence.

Owing to further falls and avalanches among the Sierras, the passes are again blocked with snow and communications cut off.

The Hon. George Curzon, M.P., has returned to London from his travels in Central Asia and Persia. Mr. Curzon rode 2,000 miles through the latter country.

Early on Tuesday morning a fire broke out at 33, Falcon-road, Battersea, from an unknown cause, and the shop and house of six rooms, tenanted by T. Lewis, draper, were destroyed.

A shock of earthquake has been felt in Rome. In several public buildings the gas was alight, extinguished. Electrical apparatus was disturbed and electric bells were set ringing. The shock was undulatory, and lasted six seconds.

The death is reported of Mr. T. W. Pearce, town clerk of Bedford, from congestion of the lungs. The deceased gentleman, who was greatly respected, presented the site upon which the new church of St. Leonard's now stands.

An alarming fire broke out on Tuesday night in oil mills situated in Thomas-street, Burdett-road, Limehouse. Captain Shaw set fourteen steamers to work, but at midnight the fire was burning fiercely.

The story is going the round in Paris that the proprietor of the restaurant who provided the Duc d'Orléans' meals while in gaol, was asked to make out a bogus bill for the purpose of proving that the royal captive ate and drank in prison like an anchorite.

The question of Sunday Post Office labour is coming to the fore. It has engaged the attention of the Norwich Town Council, and a resolution was moved that the council should petition the Postmaster-general to stop the Sunday delivery of letters in the city.

At Retford, some boys playing on the canal bank found a hole full of silver coins. Nine of the lads filled their caps with the money, which they took to the police station. Altogether £220 worth of coins were taken out, having evidently been underground for many years.

The execution of William Bow, for the murder of Lily McLauren Wilson, in Newcastle, on January 3rd last, has been fixed to take place at Newcastle on Wednesday. Berry will be the executioner.

The funeral of the late Mr. Biggar, M.P., took place at Carmoney Cemetery, near Belfast. Deputations of the Irish Parliamentary party, the National League, and other organisations were in the procession, which is said to have been a mile in length.

Referring to the great and increasing prevalence of inebriety amongst English women of all classes, Dr. Norman Kerr insists that inebriety—considered from the standpoint of practical medical science—is not less a disease than cancer, consumption, or typhoid fever.

Replying to a deputation of Volunteer commanding officers from Manchester, who asked the Government for a loan of £12,000 to provide an adequate ride range, Mr. Stanhope, the Secretary for War, promised to represent to his colleagues in strong terms the facts which had been placed before him.

John Palmer was charged, at Marlborough-street Police Court, on remand, with shooting at two persons at Hengler's Circus with intent to murder them. The men at whom it was stated, he died gave evidence against him, and the prisoner, who said he went there to kill his wife, was committed for trial.

At the Kilburn Town Hall a meeting was held in support of the movement set on foot, under the auspices of Lord E. Churchill and others, to secure a polytechnic and recreation-ground for North-West London. About £50,000 is required for the purchase of the land and a similar sum for the building. A resolution was passed pledging the meeting to use every effort in furtherance of such a scheme.

An interesting paper has just been read at the Cambridge Philosophical Society about fish. The outcome of the observations, which were made at Plymouth and elsewhere, goes to establish that the majority of fishes seek their food by sight, and in the daytime, but that skate, soles, eels, conger, and a few others hunt by scent and in the night. It was stated that none of the fishes which hunt by scent seem able to recognise food by sight.

Severe cyclones and electric storms have prevailed in the Western States of America. The small town of Brownsville, Tennessee, has been practically demolished by a cyclone, the wooden houses collapsing before the force of the storm. Many of the inhabitants are badly injured. Owing to heavy floods the town of Hamilton, Ohio, is partly submerged, the damage to property being great.

Chang, the once famous giant, is in poor health, and has been staying for several weeks at Ryde, Isle of Wight. He says that of late years, owing to his frequent stooping, his height has deteriorated some four or five inches. He stands only about seven and a half feet now. He is rarely seen in the daytime, owing to the curiosity he excites, but in the evening may frequently be seen taking his walks abroad. His residence is at Bournemouth.

According to a Bucharest correspondent the cold there is very intense. Wolves are showing themselves in packs near towns and villages. A wolf hunt has been organised, at which it was expected that the heir presumptive would assist. In Bessarabia, near the Soroca Station, a post-card was attacked by a pack of these animals and the postman and horses devoured. The leather post bags were torn to pieces, but many of the letters were found intact.

The general manager of the London and South-Western Railway Company (Mr. Charles Scott), in reply to a Battersea association to reduce the fares between Clapham Junction and Waterloo and issue monthly tickets, has replied that the rates are already very low and might be increased. With regard to monthly tickets the experience of the issue of these tickets from Earlsfield does not warrant their extension to Clapham Junction.

Notice is issued by the Postmaster-general that in future the value of a reply-paid voucher, unused, will only be refunded to the person who prepaid the reply. The sender must make application to the secretary, General Post Office, London, Dublin, or Edinburgh, as the case may be, within two months of the date on which the voucher was issued, and the voucher must be produced when the application for the return of the amount is made.

It is stated that Mr. Biggar, M.P., died possessed, exclusive of real estate, of upwards of £50,000, the major portion acquired by him in the business at Belfast, part of which was bequeathed by his father and part by his uncle. According to his will, the bulk of his estate is to be divided amongst his relatives. Mr. Healy, M.P., to whom the deceased was much attached, comes into possession of Waterford Castle, and a large sum has been bequeathed to Catholic charities and religious orders.

The Zoo is at present well furnished with specimens of the rhinoceros. Out of the six living species no fewer than four may be inspected in the elephant house. The Indian and the Sumatran species are generally on view; but if an unkind fate were to cut off Theodore, the African rhinoceros, he would be replaced by a female. Theodore has already been with us since 1888, and so is not, perhaps, quite in the flower of his youth. This is the only species of rhinoceros

from Africa which has been ever exhibited alive in Europe.

One of the few surviving Waterloo heroes James M'Kenna, had just died at Newry, aged 103.

The whole of St. James's Palace is to be fitted with the electric light in the course of a few months.

The number of postcards delivered last year was 201,275,000. At one halfpenny each this represents the value of £100,000.

According to a telegram from New York, one of the "camps" of the Clan-na-Gael has denounced the use of violence in any form.

An old French soldier has just committed suicide. He was driven to do so by his chagrin at having to leave the Army on account of his advanced age.

The room of Captain and Mrs. FitzGeorge was entered the other day in the Hotel Metropole, at Monte Carlo, and jewellery of the value of over £200 was stolen.

Mexican "peons," or labourers, are little better than slaves. Their employer contrives to get them into his debt, and if they attempt to leave him they are promptly incarcerated.

Lord Wolseley, addressing the members of the North London Rifle Club, dwelt upon the improvements which had taken place in recent years in every department of our military organisation.

The Prince of Wales is expected in Berlin on March 19th, to attend the chapter of the Black Eagle and the Order Festival. He will stay till the 22nd. Prince Christian has arrived at Wiesbaden on a visit to his family.

Last Tuesday the tram cars in the Moseler Division of Birmingham were stopped from a curious cause. The whole centre of the road gave way, the sewers having caved in, and the traffic was stopped until the following morning.

Scotch river trout have of late years been frequently shipped to Natal and New Zealand. In the latter place the common British trout attains a weight of from 10lb. to 20lb., or nearly equal to that of the average salmon.

The Chinese possess the longest bridge in the world. It is five miles long, is built entirely of stone, has three hundred arches 70ft. high, and a roadway 70ft. wide. It is situated at Lugang, over an arm of the China Sea.

At the distribution of prizes to the Middlesex Yeomanry Cavalry, Colonel Hartfield said that a complaint had been made as to their strength, but he was happy to find that they were now fifty men stronger than they were two years ago.

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When the Duc d'Orléans was preparing to go to bed on Monday night he was informed that he was to be removed that night from the Conciergerie. Shortly after midnight he was conveyed in a carriage to the suburbs of Paris, where a train stopped to take up the duke and the police who had him in custody. He was taken to the prison in the former monastery of Clairvaux, where he was placed in the quarters assigned for political prisoners.

Much commotion was caused in betting clubs circles in Liverpool by the action of the police in serving individual shareholders of various betting clubs with summonses, issued at the instance of the head constable and the excise authorities, for betting, selling spirits without a licence, and other offences. Over 900 summonses have been issued, affecting twenty-six clubs. Among those summoned are said to be several prominent residents.

The summons are returnable in a fortnight. The police are to be removed from the Conciergerie.

The Queen will attend the drawing-room at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday next, and also the succeeding drawing-room, which will take place on or about the 12th of March. Her Majesty will arrive in town on Tuesday, and the Court will remain at Buckingham Palace until Thursday.

The Queen will again visit town on the 11th of March, and will on that occasion remain at Buckingham Palace two days.

William Oram was, at the Thames Police Court, charged with assaulting two men named Sergeant and Sharp. From the evidence of the two prosecutors, it appeared that, on the ground of their being "blacklegs," working at the Copenhagen Oil Mills, they were set upon and maltreated by strikers and their supporters. The prisoner was sentenced to two months' hard labour.

The Royal United Service Institution will grant annually a gold medal for the best essay on a naval or military subject by members of the institution or persons eligible as members. The subject for the 1890 essay is "The tactical operations of the future (including questions of supply and transport of ammunition) as affected by the introduction of magazine rifles, machine and quick-firing guns, and smokeless powder."

The Prince and Princess of Wales have received, at Marlborough House, a deputation of governors of the Australian colonies, who presented them with the silver wedding gift which was subscribed by the people of Victoria. The present consisted of two handsome vases of Australian design and workmanship, wrought in gold and silver and inlaid with precious stones. Both the prince and princess were greatly pleased, and expressed their admiration.

Considerable interest is felt in the House in Sir George Trevelyan's motion in favour of a Parliamentary vacation in the summer, for which he has obtained the first place on going into Supply on Friday, the 14th of March. Most of the lawyers in the House, and many private members on both sides, favour the motion, to which, however, the majority of the official members are opposed. The general view among those who are favourable to the change is that the House should adjourn at the beginning of July, and meet again for business either in October or November, taking a short holiday again at Christmas.

Sir W. Harcourt addressed a meeting at Bath on Wednesday night, devoting his remarks chiefly to the report of the Special Commission, which, he argued, was an acquittal of the Parnellite members. He denounced the authors of the alleged calumny, and said that the £25,000 which had been ordered to be paid to Mr. Parnell was only the beginning of what was intended. He declared that the judges of the Special Commission were incompetent to try the charges of political combination. Referring to Mr. W. H. Smith's

verdict on the Parnellite members for treason and conspiracy.

The books at the Paddington Free Library show 55,000 certified

## TURF, FIELD, AND RIVER.

By LARRY LYNX.

The speculative outlook on the events of the coming springtide at the time I am penning these lines has not assumed a particularly interesting phase, notwithstanding the fact that betting men have left the Waterloo Cup well behind them. In

either the Lincolnshire Handicap or the Grand National markets can it be said that a true tone has so far been struck. There has been a more reassuring movement of late in favour of Sweet Briar since she came out of a recent Yorkshire gallop with Wise Man in a very satisfactory manner. Although she has subsequently been absent from exercise, if Sir R. Jardine's mare can be sent to the post fit and well, she will probably take a lot of beating. As I have before pointed out, Laureate, despite his weight, will, I think, go very close to beating record by carrying 9st. 2lb. to victory over the severe Carlisle miles, but the time is not yet ripe to discuss this event beyond the preliminary stage to which it has already progressed.

The feature of the wagering for the Grand National has been the firmness of Why Not, the tendency to support that handsome rogue, Roquafort, and the apparent knocking out of Dictator. This appropriately-named son of Arbitrator and Pinace was a strong "man at the corner tip" before the weights came out, but on what grounds I could never thoroughly make out beyond the fact that he was a stable companion of Frigate, and is owned by that game, honest "lepper's" owner, Mr. Maher. It is said that Dictator has broken down, and if so, it can hardly construed into another Irish grievance as his public career has been anything but a brilliant one. So much has been said about this horse that I feel inclined, whether he be struck out or not, or whether he be galvanized into a market horse again, to indulge in a slight review of his poor career, which should teach the purblind followers of racing "will-o'-the-wisps" to look up a horse's record before backing him without rhyme or reason. He commenced his career as a two-year-old on the flat. In 1888 he ran three times unsuccessfully. As a four-year-old Dictator won one out of six engagements, while at a five-year-old he won a couple. Last year Dictator was not seen under silt, and I think my readers will admit, after a perusal of his record, that unless he had been well tried with Frigate over a country, his chance for the Grand National was not anything like what the man at the street corner represented it to be, and it was simply because the Irish horses are always dangerous at Liverpool I mentioned his name at one time favourably in commenting on this race.

More Australian racehorses journey to these realms. The first to land here is Chicago, a horse who has a big record to his name "down under," and, if all be true written concerning him, a very different sort of animal to Kingmaster, and, moreover, one likely to make our stayers—that is to say, our reputed stayers—out of Chicago is a good-looking six-year-old, son of The Drummer, out of Coquanda, and the racing custodian of the Antipodes credit him with winning the Caulfield Cup, run over a course of a mile and a half, in 2min. 32sec., the fastest time on record for that distance. We have nothing like this in the old country, our best-championed mile and a half being Sealbracee's Oaks, won in 2min. 42.5sec.; whilst our fastest Derby time is 2min. 43sec., accredited respectively to Kettledrum, Blair Athol, Merry Hampton, and Ayrshire. Chicago is also reported as having made a respectable show in the Melbourne Cup, a two miles race, when carrying the steadier of 10st. Mr. M. O'Shanassy is the owner of Chicago, and if this horse succeeds in taking down the numbers of some of our best stayers we shall not grudge his owner his triumphs, for it will give an incentive to long-distance races in this country we have been long lacking. In addition to Chicago, other Australian horses en route for England are a trio of Mr. James White's—Nepean, Wentworth, and Mons Meg—all entered for our three-year-old classics of 1891. By the time Kirkham and Norellian have been matched against our equine crack of the present year of grace, namely, Surefoot, Beaumé, Le Nord, Vermillion, Riviera, and others, we shall be better able to form a reliable estimate of the Australian racer, who may, by means of the two three-year-olds now in England, either prove to be a very overrated animal, or appear as a startling development on our very best A 1 registered century horse.

The two days' sport at Dunstall Park was not of a particularly exhilarating character, but it served its purpose so far as the battle of the odds went between backer and layer, and was as interesting as most gatherings of its class generally are. The people who backed Marlborough Buck made no mistake when they slipped him for the Patshull Selling Hunters' Steeplechase. For this event odds of 6 to 5 were betted on Fretherne, who would not have even gained second place had not Timbuctoo come a cropper at the last fence but one. As it was, Marlborough Buck, as I predicted, brought off a 4 to 1 job very easily, and Mr. J. C. Dormer bought him for 6s. when sent up to the rostrum. Another 4 to 1 chance was fulfilled in my anticipations on the opening day by Lauderdale, who in the Dunstall Selling Hunters' Flat Race, somewhat startled the talent by reversing his Warwick form with Silverwood. The latter, however, it remembered, beat Lauderdale at lower weights over two miles at Warwick easily, but Lauderdale completely turned the tables on Mr. Russell's gelding under similar conditions, and the only blemish to the Warwick running was Liangollen's finishing second to Lauderdale on Tuesday. At Warwick Liangollen was, with Mr. A. Coventry, a bad third to Silverwood and Lauderdale. On Tuesday the latter finished a length and a half in front of Liangollen. Monte Video, after a dead heat through poor jockeyship, polished off Sweet Blossom in the Dudley Maiden Hunters' Flat Race. In the Wolverhampton Hurdle Race the uncertain-tempered Quicksand bowed over the odds on Teviot and the well-backed Gladstone; and other winners were Destiny, Strathnave, and Merry George.

On the second day sport was tamer at Dunstall Park. Proceedings began with Podophylin's walk over in the Envile Hunters' Flat Race; after which Mintridge, a big brown gelding standing seventeen hands two inches, with odds of 2 to 1 on him, easily won the Trysull Hunters' Steeplechase from Cartago and six others, so supplementing his Warwick form; and Veler, a promising jumper, bowled over a well-backed one in Sirius for the New Rule Hunters' Steeplechase. In the Staffordshire Hurdle Handicap Destiny, starting a 5 to 1 chance, followed up her previous day's victory by earning another pair of brackets. Old Cambalu fulfilled the expectations of punters by winning the Apaley Hunters' Hurdle Plate; Richard Rawe landed the odds betted on him in the Compton Hurdle Plate; but Mosquito, after a nail-biting good race all the way, upset the odds on Gadabout for the Towers Hunters' Flat Race.

The Derbyshire Cricket Club held their annual meeting one day last week, and, according to the reports in the daily papers, the club seems to be a cool thousand the wrong side of its debit and credit accounts. This appears to have arisen from the financial embarrassments of the club's secretary, Mr. Samuel Richardson, who is out leg behind wicket—that is to say, he has given the Derbyshire C.C. leg bail, and is no more in evidence than the Richardson who wrote "Pamela, or, Virtue Rewarded." It was announced that £250 towards the liquidation of the club's liabilities had been promised, including £100 each from Mr. G. H. Strutt and Mr. W. H. Worthington, the latter of whom was elected president for the ensuing year.

Rumours are current that the dervishes are again active in the Soudan.

A FAIR, BEAUTIFUL SKIN.—Sulphurine Soap gives the natural tint and peach-like bloom of a perfect complexion; makes the skin smooth, supple, healthy, comfortable. Tablets. Everywhere.—(Adv.)

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

on 21st March. Fred's services as a trainer are of long standing. He prepared poor dead and gone Joe Sadler for more than one of his important engagements, and it was owing to his mentorship that Slavin turned out in such good fettle to meet Smith at Bruges.

Both the Oxford and Cambridge crews are now in strict training, and although the Light Blues are a fresh lot and odds are betted on their opponents on that account, they have made tremendous improvements since they have been at work on the Ouse at Ely, which is a hopeful sign. Mr. Elkin, their stroke, was of colour and out of the boat for a few days, but Mr. J. C. Gardner, the victorious stroke of the last two years, occupied No. 8 thwart in his absence, and as the old Emmanuel oarsman has been induced to stroke the Light Blues on the eventful 26th, their chances will be considerably improved. I do not believe in strokes so light as Mr. Elkin. Their strength is scarcely equal to their hearts. Cambridge arrive at Putney for tide-way work on Tuesday next. The Oxoniens will accept Mr. Grenfell's hospitality at Taplow Court, and commence their training on the upper Thames reaches on March 3rd. On March 8th they start work on the tide-way.

Some sporting scribblers have expressed surprise at the abstention of the Spartan Harrises from the national championship. They apparently overlook the fact that under the rules which govern that contest, Kibblewhite, Pearce, others, being outside the thirty miles radius, are not eligible to represent their club. When this rule (which caused considerable discussion at the time) was first passed, the Spartan Harrises openly stated that so long as that rule remained in force they should never send a team for the National C.C.C., and, so far, they have kept their word.

There is such an embarrassment of riches in football just now that ardent devotees of the game scarcely know which encounter to war most enthusiastic about. The Association Oxford and Cambridge match evoked a good deal of interest, because it was the inter-Varsity match, but much of the play was worth the journey to see, and the men awoke from their lethargy and, fairly romping away from their opponents, won by three to one.

We are again in the thick of Rugby International matches, and most followers of that department of the game regretted the announcement of A. E. Stoddart's inability to play for "the Rose" against "the Thistle." The absence of the finest three-quarter of the day could not but seriously weaken the English fifteen. Stoddart has not yet fully recovered from the serious accident he met with when playing against the Old Lescians. To add to England's ill-luck, Bonser, of Bradford, on Thursday announced his inability to play, and so deprived us of our best half-back.

The sustaining of the appeal by Notts against the ground at Sheffield on the first occasion of the Association Cup tie meeting of that county and Sheffield Wednesday, had the effect of reversing the verdict first returned, but Sheffield Wednesday have now given Notts County a Poland for an Oliver, as Sheffield protested against the reversed verdict on the ground of the brothers Oswald having played for a Scottish club in August last while being registered for Notts in the previous June. The protest was sustained, and the game ordered to be re-played on Monday next, when Notts, without the assistance of the Oswalds, must meet the Wednesday team and so determine which of the rivals shall play the Bolton Wanderers in the semi-final. The latter have shown such marvellous improvement within the past month or two that I shall not be surprised to see them pull through the next round and if they meet the Blackburn Rovers in the final give them some trouble.

Yorkshire's defeat of the rest of England was a little disappointing to the Rugby Union executive, and it was only natural that the winning team should be strongly represented in the chief contest of the year. Scotland's defeat of Ireland was generally expected, but the Irishmen made a good fight of it.

## SUNDAY DRINKING IN BETHNAL GREEN.

## Heavy Penalty.

At Worship-street Police Court on Thursday, James Tresarden and Arthur Tresarden, poorly dressed men, appeared to summons taken out by the Excise authorities charging them with the illicit sale of beer and spirits on divers days and times. Mr. Powell prosecuted for the Island Revenue.—The evidence of a witness named Richard Winsay, a collarman, living at Round-street, Greenwich, showed that defendants, who are brothers, had a shop where what was divisible between them in equal shares. You had better put the letter to the hands of a solicitor at once.

**ANXIOUS HARRY.**—If the daughter is the only child and the wife is not living, she takes all. Letters of administration must be taken out.

F. W. R.—She has no claim.

**TEN YEARS' SUBSCRIBER.**—You can obtain admission by going early.

**THREE YEAR'S READER.**—Come to some arrangement with her and have it put in writing.

R. H.—No.

A. B. E.—1. Yes. 2. Whoever you paid the money to. 3. County court.

**WE CANNOT UNDERSTAND.**—We cannot understand what you want to know.

**ONE IN TROUBLE.**—It is quite impossible to estimate the cost of divorce proceedings.

**ANXIOUS HARRY.**—If the daughter is the only child and the wife is not living, she takes all. Letters of administration must be taken out.

F. W. R.—She has no claim.

**TEN YEARS' SUBSCRIBER.**—You are certainly our "oldest subscriber." As you must have begun to take the paper before it saw the light, one week's notice is sufficient. If this does not turn out, you must proceed by the usual process in execution.

**CONSTANT READER OF THE "PEOPLE."**—If you do not vacate at the termination of the notice, he can either eject you or charge whatever rent he pleases.

Take every care will be taken to ensure the accuracy of replies, the editor cannot accept any responsibility for accidental errors. Questions requiring to be answered should be sent to the office of the editor, 18, Grosvenor-street, W.1. These questions received will be answered the following week. Rejected MS., not accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope or wrapper, will be destroyed. Whenever payment is required for contributions they must be made in advance, and should be headed "Legal," "Household," "Miscellaneous," or otherwise, in accordance with their specific character, in order to facilitate classification.

## LEGAL.

A. B. C.—Quite impossible; to set forth all the particulars would require several columns. Consult a solicitor.

J. EDWARDS.—It would rest with a court to decide after hearing the evidence on both sides. 2. Yes, in the event of your winning the case. 3. You had better do so. 4. Consult a solicitor.

**FINES.**—You have been told great rubbish; the claim can be enforced at any time.

**ALMA EGENE.**—Do not pay either without an indemnity until one or the other has established his right.

G. H. NURSE.—It never was.

J. COSTON.—You had better either employ a patent agent or make general inquiry at the Patent Office.

**ANXIETY.**—You will have to pay her misconduct you will be relieved from further liability for maintenance; but absolute proof must be given.

**AQUA PURA.**—The third is the most correct.

**SUBSCRIBER.**—You do not say why the landlord refused the rent. He would not have done so without some good reason.

**CONSTANT READER.**—She is entitled to charge for warehousing.

**HOW MUCH?**—You could do it by deed of gift or bill of sale, provided you were in solvent circumstances.

**JUNIOR 2ND.**—They will remain her separate property.

**J. A. R.**—Your remedy would be to sue her for loss caused by misrepresentation.

**LAWYER.**—You can sue them in the county court.

**COLONIAL.**—You have to pay her the amount of the sick pay.

**H. R. H.**—We do not give addresses, nor are we acquainted with any firm of solicitors that transacts such equivocal business.

**ANXIOUS.**—You cannot compel him to give you the information.

**ANXIOUS ONE.**—The creditors could take it unless it was expressly assigned to the wife. 2. The husband would take it.

**ANXIETY.**—It can be done by deed of gift.

**DEMON.**—The whole case depends upon the rules of the society.

**J. JAMES.**—1. You could sue for breach of covenant, but we cannot undertake to what the result would be. 2. You must pay the rent till Christmas, whether you remain or not.

**TIME.**—Yes.

**MORTGAGE.**—1. Yes. 2. The money is credited to the public in the accounts.

**H. T. Y.**

**GEORGE THOMAS.**—We cannot offer any opinion.

**COLONIAL.**—The name should be changed, but that would not alienate the property in the slightest degree.

**J. A. C.**—1. Money is never employed to reduce the value of the estate.

**G. W. TOOL.**—1. No.

**WE DO NOT EMPLOY.**—You had better employ a solicitor.

**ZEVITZ.**—She can marry again at once, if so disposed.

**H. L. I.**—1. No. 2. As long as they chose. 3. Yes. 4. Wait a bit; probably you will hear nothing further.

**X. Y. Z.**—Six months, to expire on the date when tenancy began.

**ANXIOUS ONE.**—As the property is freehold, the daughter has no claim to share.

**J. JACKSON.**—Consult a solicitor. It is the sort of case that might go from court to court for years.

**NUMBERS.**—Five. 1. Yes. 2. No. 3. None.

**E. C. J.**—He can follow the goods within a month if they are coveredly removed.

**A. H. R. A.**—You had better employ a solicitor to get it done; do not be afraid to do so.

**CONSTANT READER.**—Not without your consent.

**MONEY.**—If you fail to comply with the terms of the contract, it will become void and the vendors can resume possession of their property.

**J. BAKER.**—It undoubtedly wears a criminal complexion sufficiently to justify your charging with subversion at a police court.

**X. Y. Z.**—No.

**W. X. W.**—We really cannot say what he means.

**SIXTEEN.**—You can obtain admission by going early.

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**TEN YEARS' SUBSCRIBER.**—You are certainly our "oldest subscriber." As you must have begun to take the paper before it saw the light, one week's notice is sufficient. If this does not turn out, you must proceed by the usual process in execution.

**C. P.**—1. You are still bound by the agreement.

**W. T.**—Yes; for administrative purposes only.

**G. G.**—Yes.

**POLITICO.**—Sorry we cannot oblige you; it would occupy too much space.

**DISCUSSION.**—If an affiliation order was taken out, he remains liable for all payments in arrears.

**F. F.**—Up to 15

**CAROTTERS IN THE BOROUGH.**

John Tyler, 33, labourer, was charged, at the Southwark Police Court with highway robbery and assault.—Shortly after 12 o'clock in the morning a man named Charles Jones went into a public-house in Marshalsea-road, Borough, and saw the prisoner and two other men in the bar. In consequence of a conversation which he overheard he took his money out of his purse and put it into his inside coat pocket. He then left the house, and before he had proceeded twenty yards he was seized by the throat from behind, knocked down, and held on the pavement while his pockets were rifled, but the thieves were unable to find his money. They took away his purse. On finding nothing in it, they followed him a second time, and again searched him, still without success. Some women came up and began shouting "Police," and the prisoners walked rapidly away. The prosecutor was unable to say who assaulted him, but the prisoner was identified by a woman named Rowlands, who said she saw him kneeling on the prosecutor's chair and searching his pockets.—The prisoner said he was on his way home, and saw two men interfering with the prosecutor. On hearing shouts for the police they ran away, and the constable took him.—Mr. Penwick remanded the prisoner for a week.

**ALLEGED FORGERY ON A BANK.**

At the Marylebone Police Court, Richard Pappin, 34, law stationer, of 23, Leverton-street, Kentish Town, was brought before Mr. De Ruten on a warrant, charged with, on December 17th last, forging and uttering a bill of exchange of £300, with intent to defraud the London and South-Western Banking Company.—In opening the case, Mr. Wontner said Mr. Joseph Newport, a licensed victualler, now carrying on business at the Queen's Arms, Penton-street, was a customer at the Park-street branch of the London and South-Western Bank, Camden Town. On December 17th the manager of the bank received advice purporting to come from Mr. Newport, directing him to honour an acceptance of £300. On the following day a bill of exchange was presented at the bank, and as the signature of the acceptor appeared to be correct, the money was paid in three £100 notes. Several weeks afterwards Mr. Newport examined his bank-pass-book, and finding the sum of £300 to his debit, he came to the conclusion that a mistake had been made, so he communicated with the bank. On being shown the bill he saw that the signature was a facsimile of his own, but he knew that he had had no transaction of the kind. He then recollects that Richard Pappin some time ago induced him to give him a cheque for £2 in exchange for cash, as he wanted to send the money to a friend in the country. That cheque, however, was cashed in the neighbourhood of Croydon Town. The police, who had the case in hand, found that a Mr. R. Pappin, who used to have a law stationer's business at Furnival's Inn, was now at Took's-court, Chancery-lane. Detective-sergeant White addressed a letter to Mr. Pappin, at Took's-court, and received a reply. That letter and the other documents had been examined by Mr. Netherclift, expert in writing, and he would give important evidence as to the writing.—Detective-inspector Bannister, S Division, said he and Detective-sergeant White went to Took's-court on Monday, and saw the accused in his office and called him out. The prisoner admitted that his name was Richard Pappin, and that his affairs were in the Bankruptcy Court. Witness told him that he and White were police officers, and should arrest him for forging and uttering a bill of exchange for £300. He replied, "I know nothing about it! How did I forge it?" Witness answered that he was accused of obtaining a cheque from Mr. Newport, as he said, to send into the country, and tracing the signature he thereby forged the bill of exchange. The prisoner replied, "I did not say I wanted to send the cheque into the country. I sent it to a girl living at Victoria-street." Witness told him that if he wished him to make inquiries of the girl he would do so if he was supplied with the name, &c. Pappin made answer, "I can't. I've not seen her since. She is a girl of Piccadilly."—Mr. De Ruten ordered a remand.

The execution of John Metcalfe, who was convicted at Appleby Assizes of the murder of his stepmother, has been fixed for Thursday, March 13th, in Carlisle Gaol.

**NOTICE.**

To avoid loss of time and inconvenience, all communications on business matters should be addressed to the MANAGER, and not to the EDITOR.

**PERSONAL.**

JENNIE.—All matters satisfactorily arranged. You can see father if you want it. Come to Fred's as usual.

A TEIN, ANNIE FRANCES.—Through the death of your grandmother, we will hear of something to your advantage.—DICK ATKIN.

If this should meet the eye of W. J. S. BRADLEY, he will through the death of his mother, have something to his advantage by applying to H. NEATING, Esq., Grove-road, Essex.

MARRIAGE.—Middle-aged Bachelor, gentle man by birth, wants a wife, to live with him; will respond with lady of some means, with view to early marriage.—John Standard, care of Kelly's Library, Vigo-street, Regent-street, W.

£100,000,000 UNCLAIMED.—A genuine Register of over 50,000 Persons advertised for, is at postal order.—ADAMS and CO. (successors to Cox and Co.), 55 and 56, Chancery-lane, London.

**SPECIAL PREPAID RATES.** ADVERTISEMENTS RELATING TO Situations Wanted or Vacant, Houses or Apartments to Let or Wanted, Goods, &c., or Articles for Sale, Lost or Found, &c., &c.

AMOUNT CHARGED AT

6d. PER LINE, OR EIGHT WORDS, AFTER These rates apply only to private or individual announcements, and are not intended for advertisements of the above descriptions when sent by the advertiser in his trade or professional character.

Prepayment is indispensable.

**SITUATIONS WANTED.**

GENERAL SERVANT, age 17, tall girl, 11 months' character, wages £2.—Sophie H., Hetherington's, 100, Queen-street, Peckham.

GENERAL SERVANT, 16, fond of children, 5 months' character, wages £2.50 weekly.—Annie H., Hetherington's, 100, Queen-street, Peckham.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 16, plain cooking, wages £2.—John H., Hetherington's, 67, St. John's Hill, Clapham Junction.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 16, plain cooking, willing, and good character, wages £2.—Hetherington's, 67, St. John's Hill, Clapham Junction.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 16, small family, respectable, very neat appearance, good personal character, wages £2.—John H., Hetherington's, 67, St. John's Hill, Clapham Junction.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 16, fond of children, wages £2.—John H., Hetherington's, 67, St. John's Hill, Clapham Junction.

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GENERAL SERVANT, age 16

# THE PEOPLE, SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 1890.

**MONEY**—Householders and Others (Town or Country) requiring immediate cash assistance, from £10 to £500, may claim same upon easy terms.—Apply to actual lender, Mr. FAIRHEAD, 14, Clapham-road, S.W., near Kensington Church.

**MONEY LENT** without BILL OF SALE, for men or females, without security, and for not exceeding ten years.—Apply for prospectus G. H. SHOVE, 51, John-street, Adelphi, London, W.C.

**MONEY**—Householders, tradesmen, clerks, business per-

son, and others requiring immediate advances, may ob-

tain same (from £5 to £500) without loan or formalities, by applying to Mr. WOOD, 24, High Holborn, W.C.

**MONEY** on BILL OF MAND ALONE.—Private Advances, in sum of £50 to £2,000, by LEWIS and CO., 6, Duke-

street, Adelphi, W.C.

No fees of any description whatever.

**MONEY**.—To Persons in Town or Country requiring imme-

diate cash assistance, from £10 to £500, may

claim same upon easy terms.—Apply to Mr. CHARLES FAIRHEAD, 17, Ferriers-road, Stratford, E.W.

**MONEY LENT** without Bill of Sale, upon note of hand alone

to one's actual lender, to male or female, without sureties,

apply to actual lender, W. WILVERFORCE, Esq., 17, St. Martin's-lane, Lombard-street, London, E.C.

**THE LONDON JOINT-STOCK, LOAN, DISCOUNT, and INVESTMENT COMPANY**, Limited, Southampton Buildings, Holborn, makes Advances from £10 upwards to suit the sureties and fees or deductions of any kind on equitable and moderate terms to suit the convenience of borrowers. Estd. 1859.

**MONEY LENT PRIVATELY**.

**WITHOUT** Bill of Sale, upon Promissory Note or any other Security, in England or Wales, on easy terms. No

fee or agent's delay.—Small amounts to £100, £100, £200, £300, £400, £500, £600, £700, £800, £900, £1,000, £1,200, £1,400, £1,600, £1,800, £2,000, £2,200, £2,400, £2,600, £2,800, £3,000, £3,200, £3,400, £3,600, £3,800, £4,000, £4,200, £4,400, £4,600, £4,800, £5,000, £5,200, £5,400, £5,600, £5,800, £6,000, £6,200, £6,400, £6,600, £6,800, £7,000, £7,200, £7,400, £7,600, £7,800, £8,000, £8,200, £8,400, £8,600, £8,800, £9,000, £9,200, £9,400, £9,600, £9,800, £10,000, £10,200, £10,400, £10,600, £10,800, £11,000, £11,200, £11,400, £11,600, £11,800, £12,000, £12,200, £12,400, £12,600, £12,800, £13,000, £13,200, £13,400, £13,600, £13,800, £14,000, £14,200, £14,400, £14,600, £14,800, £15,000, £15,200, £15,400, £15,600, £15,800, £16,000, £16,200, £16,400, £16,600, £16,800, £17,000, £17,200, £17,400, £17,600, £17,800, £18,000, £18,200, £18,400, £18,600, £18,800, £19,000, £19,200, £19,400, £19,600, £19,800, £20,000, £20,200, £20,400, £20,600, £20,800, £21,000, £21,200, £21,400, £21,600, £21,800, 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## MR. BAIRD AND THE PELICAN CLUB.

## Action in the Law Courts.

The motion by which Mr. George Alexander Baird, better known on the turf as "Mr. Abingdon," asks an injunction to restrain Arthur Ernest Wells, the proprietor, and Cecil Raleigh, the secretary, of the Pelican Club, from depriving him of the use of the club, came on for hearing on Friday in the Chancery Division, before Mr. Justice Stirling. Considerable interest was manifested by the public in the proceedings, and the court-room was accordingly crowded both by racing people and by patrons of the ring. Sir C. Russell, Q.C., M.P., Sir Horace Davey, Q.C., M.P., and Mr. Ernest de Witt were briefed for Mr. Baird; and the Pelican Club were represented by Mr. Graham Hastings, Q.C., and Mr. Levitt.

## Counsel's Statement.

—Sir Horace Davey, in opening the motion, said that the club was founded in March, 1887, and Mr. Baird was, he thought, an original member, or became one soon after it was formed. It was a proprietary club, and there was a committee, the case of the plaintiff being that the committee now acting was not a properly constituted committee.

The club was governed by rules which enabled a duly elected committee to expel a member in certain circumstances. He would not go into the merits of the case. He would assume that the court would not interfere with the judgment of the committee on what might be called the merit or demerit of the case, and, therefore, he would not ask an opinion on whether the committee came to a right or wrong conclusion, supposing the committee was duly constituted and proceeded in accordance with the principles which were recognised, not only among lawyers, but among men as consonant with fair dealing. He thought it might be laid down that to expel a member they must first show that they had proceeded in accordance with the ordinary principles of justice, that they were not warranted in expelling him without offering him an opportunity of justifying or explaining his conduct, and that the court would declare expulsion null and void if done on ex parte evidence. It was also sound law that a committee must show that they were a duly constituted tribunal; and, secondly, that they proceeded strictly according to the rules. Mr. Baird had paid his annual subscription, and thus had a right by contract to the use of the club. He did not say that if the committee were properly constituted he would not, because of that contract, be liable to lose his right of property which he had purchased for the year, but he would submit that the committee was improperly constituted, that they did not proceed with due formality, and that the resolution expelling Mr. Baird was passed without giving him an opportunity to explain or meet the charges brought against him. The Pelican Club was a club containing certain gentlemen who were called "sportsmen" and among other sports they patronised was boxing.

## At the Smith-Slavin Fight.

On December 23rd, 1889, there was a prize fight at Bruges, in Belgium, between a man named Smith, who he understood was the British champion, and a man named Slavin, who he understood was the Australian champion. Mr. Baird was present, and there were also what were called in the affidavit "English roughs," and he was bound to say that these "English roughs" appeared to have behaved very badly to the Australian champion, and their conduct gave not a good impression of the fairness of the British rough, if those persons were representatives of it. Mr. Baird was present, and it was no part of his (Sir H. Davey's) duty to deny, and he did not deny, that Mr. Baird misconducted himself—it was stated, in short, that he was intoxicated, and that he used very bad language. He (Sir H. Davey) did not know himself the sort of language used at the ring side, and therefore he could form no estimate as to the extent, if any, in which Mr. Baird's language differed from what was usual at such places. It might be taken, however, that Mr. Baird's language was what they in this court would consider unbecoming, to say the least of it. But a charge of a far more serious character was made against Mr. Baird, namely, that he had employed his money to take the roughs over to Bruges for the purpose, in case their champion (Smith) was getting the worst of the fight, of abusing Slavin. That would have been a very serious charge, and accordingly, on the day after the fight, a meeting of the so-called committee was held, and an investigation made. They appear to have called several witnesses, but apparently did not consider it necessary to ask Mr. Baird to attend to put questions to them or cross-examine them. On January 7th, however, he, at the request of the committee, attended on the committee, and admitted—it must be so taken on the evidence—that he was not altogether master of himself and that he had used bad language. But he absolutely and entirely denied the charge that he had hired the roughs for the purpose of breaking up the fight or attacking Slavin.

## Mr. Baird and the Committee.

—The upshot was the committee passed a resolution regarding Mr. Baird's individual conduct at the fight, but did not find any evidence had been brought before them to justify them in finding that he was in any way responsible for the appearance of the roughs who prevented the fight being brought to a conclusion. This was "carried unanimously." Now there really and truly, was an end of the matter. The committee, however, reported their decision to a general meeting of the club. Lord Queensberry, who appeared to have taken a very hostile attitude to Mr. Baird, took part in the discussion, and an amendment to the motion for the adoption of the report was moved to the effect that the conduct of Mr. Baird be referred back to the committee for further consideration. This amendment was carried. Thereupon the committee resigned; but that committee had, on the materials before them, completely exonerated Mr. Baird from the grave charge made against him of having employed the roughs to break up the fight. Sir H. Davey then referred to the subsequent proceedings, which are now pretty generally known, and to the old committee being proposed for re-election en bloc at a subsequent meeting and re-elected. He said that the rule requiring fourteen days' notice of a general meeting was not in this case complied with, that no notice was given to propose the re-election of the old committee, and that in other respects the rules had not been complied with.

## The Plaintiff Expelled.

After the committee had been re-elected, Lord Queensberry appeared to have revived the old charge. On the plainest principles of justice it was their duty to give Mr. Baird notice that the matter would be re-opened, and an opportunity to meet and controvert Irish statements and facts, if any, which Lord Queensberry brought to the attention of the committee. That was not done, and on January 23rd the committee, on ex parte information, called on Mr. Baird to resign, which, under the rules, was the preliminary to expulsion. Mr. Baird wrote and asked a week to consult his friends, and said that meantime he would not use the club. On February 10th they passed a resolution expelling him from the club. He submitted that the committee was not a committee duly elected by the club, because the rules required that the committee should be elected by a general meeting, called after due notice. Under the original rules notice of the business for each meeting had to be given. The rules were altered in April, 1889, but no sufficient notice of the proposed alteration had been given; and with regard to the re-election of the committee en bloc, that proposal was sprung upon the meeting. If the committee thus re-elected, on reconsidering the case of Mr. Baird, went on the facts when they passed the resolution for expelling him, he submitted, it was incompetent for them to go back upon their old decision. If the committee, upon new facts, statements, and documents, they were ex parte statements by the General of Queensberry, and thus ought to have

given Mr. Baird an opportunity to meet those new facts. He had a copy of what purported to be the statement made by Lord Queensberry to the committee on the 29th of January, in which he said that a man named Carney received a sum of £25, and that Carney had brought some five or six roughs across the water; that Baird did not go over as an ordinary spectator, but as the backer of Smith, in whose corner was this band of ruffians; and that in judging of Baird's conduct they were bound to take in conjunction with it the dastardly and cowardly proceedings which took place; that it did not matter to him whether Baird paid the expenses of these men or not; that Mr. Baird's conduct was "a disgrace to the Pelican Club, and the sense of justice and fair play of the whole of England." His lordship remarked that it seemed to him that Lord Queensberry put a fresh issue before the committee.—Sir H. Davey said that was the way it struck him. Mr. Hastings said that if that was the impression which the paper made on his lordship's mind, he would ask leave to put the question to Lord Queensberry.

## Lord Queensberry's Religious Scruples.

—The Marquis of Queensberry was called. On "the book" being offered to him, he said, "I do not wish to make a scene, but my principles are well known." His lordship said he must state his belief.—The Marquis of Queensberry replied that he had the greatest respect for religious belief, but he was not a Christian.—His Lordship: Is there any form of oath which is binding on you?—The Marquis of Queensberry: I give my word of honour. I was turned out of the House of Lords for the same reason as Mr. Bradlaugh was turned out of the Commons. The law has been changed since then.—His Lordship: If you say that taking the oath in the usual form is contrary to your religious belief, you can affirm.—The Marquis of Queensberry: I do say so. He then took the affirmation, and the result of his examination was in effect that although he himself had thought that the same points had already been before the committee.—The further hearing was adjourned.

## IMITATING MRS. MAYBRICK. Extraordinary Charge against a Child.

At Chester Police Court, before Mr. H. T. Brown and other magistrates, Elizabeth Roberts, aged 9 years, residing at Crane-street, Chester, was charged with attempting to poison Annie Hodgkinson, a young woman living with her mother. The defendant's father, a widower, and his children lodged with Mrs. Hodgkinson, and he was engaged to be married to Annie Hodgkinson. Lately various inmates were taken sick, and on the 13th February, Annie was taken violently ill. The defendant on coming from school asked about Annie, and on being told she was better, said, "Oh, I have been crying, I am frightened. I thought Annie would be dead." Further, she said that she had given Annie some mixture which had been obtained for a lotion, and which was marked "poison" and also other medicines which were in the house. She said something came over her and made her do it, and that her grandmother had told her first to do it. It was denied by Mrs. Rider, the grandmother. The defendant afterwards said that she had put various poisonous mixtures into the food, particularly on one occasion, which Mrs. Hodgkinson perfectly remembered, through all the family being taken sick. She said she had first tried the poison on her grandmother, Mrs. Rider, at Saltney, with whom she and her father used to live, and said that on one occasion Satan tempted her to do it.—Mrs. Rider said that during the Maybrick trial the girl took a deal of interest in it. The defendant and another little girl used to play at being Mrs. Maybrick, taking turns to personate that lady.—In answer to the charge in court, the defendant said, "Mrs. Rider did tell me to do it. She told me, 'The prisoner was ordered to be kept in a reformatory for seven years.'—Annie Hodgkinson has now recovered from the ill effects of the poison.

## KICKING A MAN'S EYE OUT.

At Kingston-on-Thames Police Court on Thursday, William Atkins, of Walton, was charged on a warrant with inflicting grievous bodily injury on Alfred Lavey, his father-in-law. The complainant said that he was in the Swan Hotel at Walton on January 23rd, with some friends, when the prisoner entered, and addressing him, said, "Here's the champion birdcage smasher." Atkins struck Lavey on the head, and Lavey picked up a poker to defend himself. He tried to strike the prisoner, but missed him. The prisoner and another man then pushed him on his hands and knees into a corner of the room. While there Atkins struck him, and afterwards kicked him violently in the eye, "knocking it out." He called out "Murder!" but the other men did not interfere, because they were too frightened. The injured man was taken to the Westminster Hospital, where he remained for a month.—Corroborative evidence having been called, Atkins reserved his defence, pleading not guilty, and was committed to take his trial at the Surrey Sessions.

## REMARKABLE CHARGE OF BEGGING.

Henry Stanthorpe, solicitor, who gave an address at St. Anne's Villas, Royal Crescent, Notting Hill, was charged at Westminster Police Court on Friday, before Mr. Sheil, with begging from Mr. Milvain, Q.C., M.P., at 41 Rutland Gate. The defendant, a tall, middle-aged man, assed the magistrate not to proceed with the case in the absence of a legal friend whom he had known thirty years.—Inspector Haswell said perhaps an adjournment would be necessary, as Mr. Milvain was compelled to go away that morning on circuit. The prisoner called on him on Thursday night and asked him for ten shillings to assist him to get to Newcastle and then on to Hexham. He told Mr. Milvain that he was Captain Stanthorpe, and nephew of Alderman Stanthorpe, a gentleman well known in the north. It was impossible at such a late hour to inquire into the truth of his statements, and Mr. Milvain, treating him as a beggar, if not an impostor, called a constable and went to the station and charged him.—Defendant said he could bring gentlemen who had known him to say the position he had held Captain Connell, of the India Office, had known him for twenty-five years. As for aching for alms, he never thought of such a thing. For the last two years he had been engaged with Mr. Dawson, deputy-chairman of the Lancaster Quarter Sessions, and he had no notion of beginning a friend had offered to help him if he could raise part of the money to get to Newcastle, and he thought Mr. Milvain would be the first to help him, knowing his cousin, and also his uncle, Alderman Stanthorpe, of the Northumberland County Council. He simply asked Mr. Milvain to advance him the 10s. until he got down north.—Mr. Sheil said he should remand him for a week, but would take one surety in 10s. for his appearance.—The defendant begged the magistrate not to remand him, but to read Mr. Dawson's letter, which was among his papers. This Mr. Sheil did, and then said to defendant: I will discharge you this time, but if you are brought here again on a similar charge, I will certainly send you to prison.

## FIRE AT ALDERSHOT CAMP.

On Friday morning a fire broke out in the clothing store of the Medical Staff Corps, South Camp, Aldershot, and at one time caused great alarm, being situated in the centre of the lines, where the troops and women and children are quartered in old wooden huts. All the troops in camp turned out promptly on the fire alarm being sounded. There was, fortunately, a plentiful supply of water, and after a couple of hours the flames were got under, but not before a very large quantity of clothing and stores had been destroyed.

## SIR MORELL MACKENZIE'S ACTIONS FOR LIBEL.

## Mackenzie v. Steinkopff.

In the Queen's Bench Division on Friday, before Baron Huddleston and a special jury, the case of Mackenzie v. Steinkopff came on for hearing. The plaintiff, Sir Morell Mackenzie, sued Mr. Edward Steinkopff to recover damages for libel contained in two letters written by the defendant to Mr. Greenwood, who was at that time editor of the *St. James's Gazette*. The defendant denied that the meaning put upon those letters by the plaintiff was the true one, and he paid 40s. into court as sufficient to meet the plaintiff's claim, having regard to the true meaning of the words used. Sir C. Russell, Q.C., Mr. Asquith, Q.C., and Mr. A. Russell appeared for the plaintiff; and Mr. Finlay, Q.C., and Mr. Percy Grey for the defendant.—Sir Charles Russell, in opening the case, said Sir Morell Mackenzie was a physician of great distinction and wide reputation, and was, he believed, admitted in his profession to be the most distinguished specialist in the matter of throat affections. The defendant, Mr. Steinkopff, was a German gentleman who had lived, he believed, a great many years in this country, and who had been for some time, he believed, a naturalized British subject. The plaintiff complained that he had been very seriously libelled by the defendant, who, however, relied upon the fact that he did not intend the libel to be published at all in the sense of publishing them broadcast, and in addition he paid 40s. into court, and said that he had apologised to the plaintiff. The learned counsel went on to describe the circumstances under which Sir Morell Mackenzie was called on to attend upon the late Emperor Frederick of Germany, and the consultations which took place. There were two removals of growth from the throat of the Emperor, the last on June 23rd, 1887, which were examined by Professor Virchow, a gentleman who was at the head of his profession, and he came to the conclusion that the growth was not of a cancerous nature. On March 1st, 1888, a further removal of the growth was effected and submitted to another gentleman of high distinction, and then for the first time was discovered the formation of cancerous cells which for the first time warranted those in attendance upon the prince in supposing that he was suffering from cancer. The libels were written in May, 1888, the Crown Prince, who previously succeeded to the throne, dying on June 13th, 1888. It appeared that the defendant had formed the design of acquiring a newspaper which should bear an English name, and should be published in London, but which should be a German organ, representing certain powerful German influences. In May, when the letters were written, he was engaged in negotiating the purchase of the *St. James's Gazette*, and was in communication with that editor of that paper, to whom the letters were written. The first letter, dated Kaiserhof, Berlin, May 14th, was to the effect that defendant had seen Rottenburg—who, counsel said, was a gentleman at the Foreign Office at Berlin—and had a good deal of conversation, all of a very satisfactory kind. He felt there was a desire to operate as much as possible against Boulanger. The Emperor, the letter went on, is not expected to live much longer, and when he dies a storm will break out against Mackenzie, not on account of the final collapse, but because of the many mistakes which he is said to have made.

## The Queen is Praised

as having shown more sense than the Empress. The second letter, which was dated from Berlin the same day, was to the effect that the defendant had shown Greenwood's letter to R., who had expressed his and B.'s entire satisfaction and their readiness to work with them in a thorough manner. Defendant further said he had stated their desire that the embassies at Paris, Rome, and Petersburg should be instructed to write or wire information, but was told it was impossible. It might therefore be necessary to have correspondents at each place, which would mean a couple of thousand pounds of additional expense. On Wednesday, further, he said he was to meet Herbert B., and then the letter proceeded, "I am told again, and from a totally different quarter, that Mackenzie will have to run the moment the Emperor dies. There is so much material being collected against him that he will find it difficult to stand. He is charged with conspiracy in so far that he, knowing that the Emperor suffered from cancer, denied it in order that the Emperor might not be excluded from the succession, which certainly might have been done in accordance with the law of the Hohenzollerns had Mackenzie admitted the existence of cancer. He so conspired to provide funds for various present and prospective purposes." The letter concluded by saying that everything he believed was going on as well as possible and their ideas concerning Boulanger is that an English paper should say that Germany, and only Germany, benefited by what he did, but B. told defendant they awaited further news before proposing any observations on the subject. The learned counsel went on to explain that portions of the letters were referred to during the trial of an action brought by Mr. Greenwood against the proprietor of the *St. James's Gazette*, but that the *Times*' reporter published other portions which were not read, including those parts reflecting on plaintiff.

## Sir Morell Mackenzie's Evidence.

—Sir Morell Mackenzie went into the witness-box and gave an account of his attendance on the Crown Prince, who subsequently became Emperor of Germany. He was summoned to Berlin in May, 1887, by the prince's physicians, who told him that his royal highness was suffering from hoarseness and from a small growth in the windpipe. It was impossible to tell the nature of the growth without removing it, and he heard of a proposal to make an opening in the throat for the purpose of removing the whole or a portion of the larynx, but he proposed to remove a portion without resorting to that operation, and he accordingly removed a portion of the growth, which was examined by Professor Virchow, who said it was a simple wart, and that there was no trace of cancer. Upon a subsequent removal Professor Virchow reported to the same effect. Sir M. Mackenzie, continuing his evidence, said it was not till March 1888, that Professor Waldeyer found traces of cancer in the Crown Prince's throat. The physician in attendance then sent a report to Berlin. He did not consider that the presence of cancer was conclusively proved till March, 1888.—In cross-examination, Sir M. Mackenzie said he had brought another action against the *Times* for the same libel. He admitted that ill-natured reports were circulated in Germany soon after his arrival there, but they were by the anti-English press. The cross-examination concluded the case for the plaintiff.—No evidence was called for the defence.—Mr. Asquith summed up the case for the plaintiff, denouncing the defendant for not going into the box.—Mr. Finlay, in addressing the jury for the defence, said the defendant never suggested that he was the slightest truth in the statement complained of. He merely repeated without malice rumours which were current in Berlin. They were written in confidence, and never intended for publication.—His lordship, in summing up, said a man who repeated a libel was liable, whatever his intention might be.—The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, damages £1,500, and judgment was given accordingly, with costs.

## Action against the "Times."

It was announced that the case, Mackenzie v. The Times, had been settled on the terms that judgment should be entered for the plaintiff for £1,500, with taxed costs, so as to indemnify the plaintiff, it being stated that it was by inadvertence that the portions of the letters not read in court were published in the *Times*, the reporter not being aware that it had been agreed that the letters should not be read in full.

## ALLEGED ELOPEMENT AND ROBBERY.

## Thomas Powell, aged 26, a tailor, of Court-road, Saltmead, and Mary Ann Cooksey, 32, of Fair-court-street, Caderton, Cardiff, were brought up at the West London Police Court on Thursday, on a warrant, charged with being concerned in a stealing chairs and other articles of furniture, value £15, the property of Frank Cooksey, the husband of the female prisoner.—Mr. Curtis Bennett, on seeing the prosecutor, who looked much older than his wife, observed that he was a male nurse attendant, and was staying at Hunt-street. At the time of the alleged assault he was living at Nasmyth-street, Hammersmith, the male prisoner being a lodger. On December 30th he was sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment, and was released on February 8th. He went to the house and found it empty, the prisoners and all the furniture gone. He made inquiries of the neighbour, and traced the prisoners to the Great Western Railway at Paddington. He identified the washstand in the possession of a furniture dealer, named Robinson, in Badon-road, Hammersmith, who showed him a receipt, which he believed was in Powell's handwriting. He was proceeding to refer to the alleged assault when he was stopped by the magistrate, who said, "Not now." In answer to the male prisoner, the prosecutor questioned the man, who said he was the sergeant of the man who had been dismissed, and Low, whom he represented as Inspector Lockwood, was his inspector. Both men said they had permission from the commissioner of police to collect money for the discharged constable. Prosecutor said he felt very sorry for the man and believed the statements of the prisoners to be true, he handed Coe 2s., and signed one of the papers. His suspicion was aroused after the men left the house, and the following morning he went to Dalston Police Station and inquired into the genuineness of the prisoners' representations. As a result of his inquiries he laid information at that court, and a warrant was issued for their arrest.—James Hilditch, of the Windsor Castle, Victoria Park, and other witnesses deposed to being similarly imposed upon, and the prisoners were committed for trial.

## OBTAINING MONEY BY FALSE PRETENCES.

Frederick Coe, 35, of Malvern-road, Dalston, and William Low, 42, of Copper-road, South Hornsey, both described as of no occupation, were charged at the Clerkenwell Police Court, on a warrant, with obtaining by means of false pretences, from Henry Crane, 22.—Prosecutor, a licensed victualler, of the Windsor Castle, City-road, St. Luke's, said that on the evening of February 21st the two prisoners entered his house, and Coe, in a jovial manner, exclaimed, "Guv nor, we have a summons for you," at the same time producing a large envelope and taking from it several sheets of blue paper. On each sheet of paper there was a cutting from a newspaper in reference to a police officer who had been dismissed from the force for drinking while on duty, and words to the effect that money was being collected for him. There were a number of signatures on the papers, and among each sums of money were recorded. The prosecutor questioned the men, and Coe said he was the sergeant of the man who had been dismissed, and Low, whom he represented as Inspector Lockwood, was his inspector. Both men said they had had permission from the commissioner of police to collect money for the discharged constable. Prosecutor said he felt very sorry for the man and believed the statements of the prisoners to be true, he handed Coe 2s., and signed one of the papers. His suspicion was aroused after the men left the house, and the following morning he went to Dalston Police Station and inquired into the genuineness of the prisoners' representations. As a result of his inquiries he laid information at that court, and a warrant was issued for their arrest.—James Hilditch, of the Windsor Castle, Victoria Park, and other witnesses deposed to being similarly imposed upon, and the prisoners were committed for trial.

## "IN THE SWIM."

## BY A CITY SHARK.

The Stock Exchange has just witnessed one of those gambling "rags" which make so many people regard it as a den of thieves. At the end of last week a story was industriously spread that the South-Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Companies had decided to amalgamate, as the best way of reducing working expenses. As no official contradiction appeared, even the know-how got to believe that there might be something in the strange tale, and so lively buying went on all round the circle. Just at the height of the fever out came the long delayed denial, and a number of clever ones found themselves caught. Sharp practice, undoubtedly; it would be interesting to discover the person who first loosed the prodigious canard. He and his friends have made, no doubt, a sweet little pile, but I should not much care to sit down at the card-table with them for antagonists. In one way, however, they have done good, of course, inadvertently, or they would not have been guilty of such inconsistency we may sure. The idea of fusion having been thus started, the shareholders of both lines will wonder whether it might not be to their mutual advantage to establish a partnership. It is estimated that the writer of a brochure which has just appeared that the joint saving by this means would amount to fully £300,000 per annum, but that, I think, is an exaggerated figure. Even deducting one-third, however, a very pretty penny would remain for the shareholders to divide between them.